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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia To Approach Saddam

Letter Considered

JN0312131190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Dispatch from Cairo by Mustafa Bakri]

[Text] The initiative proposed by U.S. President George Bush to open direct dialogue with Iraq will top the agenda of the talks among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia in their third meeting in Cairo today. The three ministers held several meetings in Jeddah and Damascus previously to continue coordination among the three states on developments in the Gulf crisis.

This morning, the Egyptian weekly newspaper MISR AL-FATAH revealed that the three ministers will discuss a political plan on the readiness of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia to render the necessary help to make Iraq agree to withdraw from Kuwait. The plan says that, if Iraq rejects the political plan presented by the three countries, these countries will join the other international forces to agree to military coordination against Iraq.

The Egyptian weekly disclosed that the consultations among the three countries center on the possibility of handing a written letter to this effect to the Iraqi president.

It has also been learned that the three ministers will discuss the U.S. proposal to hold meetings between the countries that are parties to the crisis and Iraq during or after the beginning of the expected Iraqi-American dialogue.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives

NC0312154390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has arrived at Cairo airport, from where he immediately proceeded to the venue of the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. He was received at the airport by Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and As'ad Abu-al-Nasr, Saudi ambassador in Cairo.

Syrian Ministers Arrive

NC0312151390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman arrived in Cairo this afternoon. The Syrian ministers will take part in the third round of tripartite talks among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia which will open later this evening. During the meeting issues of common interest will be discussed.

In an arrival statement, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that this meeting is another in the series of meetings held by the foreign ministers of the three countries to follow up the issues discussed at the earlier two rounds of meetings held in Jeddah on 29 and 30 October and in Damascus on 9 and 10 November.

The Syrian foreign minister said that during today's meeting views will be exchanged on the current developments, particularly since the region is passing through a time that requires the utmost alertness from all. In this respect, al-Shar' described the coming weeks as crucial and added that fateful decisions will be made for the three countries and for our Arab nation.

He emphasized that the three-way meeting among Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia is considered an "important meeting." He added: We hope we will be able to unify our stands and views in a way that will serve the interests of our Arab peoples and the interests of peace and stability in the region.

The Syrian foreign minister described U.S. President George Bush's initiative to hold a dialogue with Iraq as an "important matter." He pointed out that this subject will be discussed during the tripartite Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi meeting today in order to arrive at a common stand.

The Syrian foreign minister noted in this respect that his country has welcomed Bush's initiative. He added: We hope this initiative will lead to the full implementation of the Arab and UN resolutions regarding the current Gulf crisis.

Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif were at Cairo airport to receive the Syrian foreign and information ministers upon their arrival.

Meeting Opens 3 Dec

NC0312192290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—The tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia began at the Semiramis Hotel in Cairo at 2000 tonight. Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman, Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir, and Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif are also attending.

The meeting is the third of its kind since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis as a result of the Iraqi forces' invasion of Kuwait on 2 August. It is being held to coordinate the stands of the three countries to confront the crisis which affects the entire Arab nation.

A responsible diplomatic source has stated that the convening of the Egyptian-Saudi-Syrian meeting was dictated by circumstances which portend serious dangers and is an attempt to contain the existing crisis and avert an explosion. The source added that the Arab nation's

vital interests require that all its military, human, economic, and strategic potential be mobilized so that joint Arab action capable of ending this crisis and enabling the Arab nation to emerge from its current ordeal can be undertaken.

Concluding his statement, the source said that the Arab capitals do not want war with Iraq. They only want to restore an Arab land to its legitimate owners.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments

NC0412135090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated following the three-hour meeting of the Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers today that the contacts and coordination among the three countries are proceeding in the best possible way. He added that the contacts will continue and a third consultation meeting will be held this afternoon. The meeting will be attended by the information ministers of the three countries.

He added that the discussion during the meeting centered on the Gulf crisis and its related stands and developments, as well as its possible consequences.

When asked if the U.S.-Iraqi dialogue was discussed, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid replied no, it was not discussed in this meeting.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Mubarak Receives Ministers

NC0412114290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman, and Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir at the Presidential Palace this morning.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, as well as the Syrian and Saudi ambassadors to Cairo attended the meeting.

Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that the meeting was important and that it involved an exchange of views over the recent developments on the Arab arena, particularly the Gulf crisis.

Al-Shar' said that the Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi officials are in agreement on the importance of coordination and cooperation between the three countries in the present and the future. He noted that since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the region has been facing negative and

perilous developments that cannot be halted unless Arab and international resolutions are implemented.

The Syrian foreign minister said: We, the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, will continue our meetings to further examine the topics we discussed yesterday. We believe that our positions are united with regard to this crisis. We take into account the fact that our three countries constitute a firm foundation for the protection and defense of Arab rights, as well as the higher interests of the Arab people.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Husni Mubarak underlined in that meeting the importance of cooperation between the foreign and information ministers and noted that information work reflects and supports political, economic, social, and cultural cooperation between the three countries.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak pointed out that cooperation between the three countries should continue and transcend any specific situation to become part of a long-term policy to build a foundation to serve the Arab people. President Mubarak underscored the role of information and its importance in this regard.

To Support U.S.-Iraq Dialogue

JN0412073290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources have told our radio that the three ministers [Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers] will express their support for the [Iraqi-U.S.] dialogue either through a statement to be issued after their meeting in Cairo or through a message to be addressed to the U.S. Administration.

According to information, the joint position of the three states will stress support for the recent U.S. call for further political efforts to resolve the crisis, and call on Iraq to respond to this call through recognizing international legitimacy and UN and Cairo summit resolutions to prevent a war in the Gulf. Although they are convinced of the importance of this dialogue, the topics on the agenda of this dialogue will be the focus of the three states' discussions.

Cairo believes that withdrawal and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions are the fundamental issues. Saudi Arabia will discuss the basis for security arrangements following the withdrawal, and Syria is concentrating on the issue of military balance in the region after the Gulf crisis is resolved.

According to the same sources, there is agreement among the three states that, if Iraq agrees to resolve the crisis peacefully, there should be another round of U.S.-Iraqi talks on security arrangements in the region in general. The issue of Iraqi-Gulf relations in general, and Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations in particular, and the issue of Iraqi armaments, fall within the framework of these arrangements.

Algerian Plan for Arab Mission to Iraq Founders

PM2711123990 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
21-27 Nov 90 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Arab Leaders Refuse To Visit Baghdad Before Withdrawal From Kuwait"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned from informed sources in Cairo that Algeria proposed the formation of a delegation comprising Arab leaders to visit Baghdad and meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in a new Arab bid to persuade him to settle the crisis peacefully and withdraw his forces from Kuwait. The sources said that the Algerian proposal was presented to a number of Arab leaders but did not get enough support, especially because of the lack of sufficient guarantees from Baghdad that it would respond to the demands which the Arab leaders delegation would carry with them to Saddam Husayn.

The sources pointed out that a number of the Arab leaders to whom the proposal was presented informed Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid that they were not prepared to visit Baghdad so long as the Iraqi forces were occupying Kuwait, since such a visit would be tantamount to giving their blessing to Saddam Husayn's occupation.

GCC Ministerial Council Meeting Postponed

JN2511104790 Manama WAKH in English 1635 GMT
24 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, Nov 24 (GNA)—GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Mr Sayf Bin-Hashil al-Maskari said that a meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council scheduled to be held in Doha today has been postponed.

The meeting was to prepare the agenda of the GCC's 11th summit conference due to be held in Doha on December 22.

Al-Maskari told QATAR NEWS AGENCY that the postponement of the meeting had been decided at the request of some member states whose foreign ministers wanted to attend a United Nations Security Council session to debate a possible resolution sanctioning the use of military force against Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait.

The Qatari newspaper 'AL-SHARQ' said today the GCC Ministerial Council meeting has been postponed because the foreign ministers of some member states had other functions to do and thus would not be able to attend the meeting to be held next week.

Maghreb Mediterranean Security Conference Ends

LD2811125190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The first Maghreb conference on Mediterranean security ended this evening after a three-day continuous

debate with a final communique. The final communique was read out by a rapporteur of the conference, (Ma'el-Ain Djbaili)

[Begin (Djbaili) recording] The Maghreb conference on Mediterranean security was held in Algiers from 9 to 11 Jamad al-'Awwal 1411 AH, corresponding to 25-27 November 1990, in accordance with the recommendation passed by the meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] defense ministers.

The meeting was distinguished by objectivity and openness during a constructive debate which sought to come to a new understanding of the concept of Maghreb security, and specify the threats aimed at it, in a atmosphere of complete awareness and responsibility.

The members of the Maghreb delegations—both military and civilian experts—dwelt on a comprehensive and accurate analysis of the problems raised in the security field at three levels:

1. The effect of changes taking place in East Europe and the two military alliances on Mediterranean security.
2. The connection of the Middle East crises with Mediterranean stability.
3. Visualizing a stand of the AMU toward security issues in the Mediterranean.

This document seeks to summarize the basic ideas which have been defined during the reviews and debates and study them within the framework of the Maghreb direction. The first point: The effect of the European changes on Mediterranean security. The causes which led to the end of communist parties' domination and the disintegration of the economy of East Europe resulted from the Soviet Union's revision of its strategic objectives due to the economic and social deterioration of the East bloc.

The legacies of this change emerge through the radical reorganization of Europe, and they are characterized by the end of the Cold war, disarmament initiatives, and reexamination of the security concept.

The interim stage has a new feature in which the complete economic and technological support for the East European states is carried out at the expense of all others. The new hazards manifested in Asian economic pressure and the African [word indistinct] and fears of the effects of the Islamic resurgence have pushed Europe toward adopting unified stands to confront all eventualities.

Reactions in this connection have been taking a security aspect aimed at coordination in the military fields—land, sea, and air—and observing borders in order to check non-military dangers like terrorism, clandestine emigration, and drug trafficking. Coordinating efforts in all these fields have pushed the Europeans toward giving a new character and efficacy to the organization of the CSCE, turning it into a transitional framework for what the recession of militarism (?has led to), the reformation

of NATO under U.S. pressure and deterioration of the Warsaw Pact which is [word indistinct] reducing the Soviet military arsenal.

Deciding European security affairs inside the CSCE brought a change in the type of rivalry as manifested in the U.S.-Soviet dialogue over their treatment of the reunified Germany and [words indistinct] in regard to the treatment of security issues in Europe.

The second point: the link between the Middle East crises and Mediterranean security. The eastern part of the Mediterranean has been going through troubles [words indistinct] having negative effects on the western parts of the Mediterranean because of the numerous cultural, political, and social bonds which exist between the AMU countries and the Arab East that make it incumbent on the AMU to assume—by virtue of its relations with the Arab and Islamic world in particular—its responsibilities concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The need for playing an active role in devising Arab-Arab solutions [word indistinct] from the big powers' arsenals in the Middle East causes, particularly the Palestinian and Lebanese questions, in addition to avoiding the outbreak of a devastating war in the Gulf.

Despite the absence of any regional justification in the eastern Mediterranean, the basic element lies in the question of Israel—which is bolstered by the West and shares the same strategic objectives—striking at Arab entities and breaking their ranks with a view to dominate their oil wealth.

The third point: The AMU attitude toward security issues of the Mediterranean. The AMU's Mediterranean position makes it incumbent on it to take into consideration the need for cooperation with the northern part and for safeguarding the security and safety of the region while adopting a unified Maghreb vision based on the supremacy of the freedom of the AMU countries.

There is need for coordination within the AMU for the attainment of security objectives vis-a-vis challenges and finding successful remedies for economic and social problems and internal contradictions, with a view to attaining nationality and realism and doing away with the causes of conflicts and thereby overcome selfishness and isolation. Coordination work within the framework of the [words indistinct] in the field of education and industry [words indistinct] or condition, in which sovereignty and dignity are respected [words indistinct] political, social, and economic choices.

The need for the development of security concepts through a Maghreb perspective—in the field of dealing with the EC, particularly the Mediterranean members of the EC—in order to achieve an honorable cooperation without [word indistinct] or condition, in which sovereignty and dignity are respected [words indistinct] political, social, and economic choices.

The [words indistinct] through the coordination of efforts and the drawing up of a comprehensive defensive policy that in the short term would seek the unification of security concepts, the exchange of military know-how and security information, the exchange of visits, and the staging of joint military maneuvers.

From an African dimension it is necessary to take into consideration the fact that the AMU pursues a coordinated policy of constructive cooperation with other countries bordering on AMU member countries.

The development of the AMU as a peace [words indistinct] commanding respect of all [word indistinct] turning the Mediterranean into a lake of peace in which arms are prohibited, as is happening now in the European arena. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Confers With Daniel Ortega in Baghdad

JN0312093390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO
in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in Baghdad last night. They discussed the latest developments in the Gulf conflict and the efforts by Mr. Ortega and other international and Arab parties to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis.

They also discussed the PLO's efforts in the same direction, the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the pressing need to secure international protection for the Palestinian people and their Islamic and Christian sanctities from the brutal Israeli practices and massacres.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar arrived in Baghdad last night on an official visit of several days to fraternal Iraq.

Expected U.S.-Iraqi Talks Viewed 'With Caution'

JN0312113090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO
in Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the Palestine question is not the cause of the Arabs alone, nor is it an issue confined only to the Middle East. It is the most important issue in the world's contemporary history. Events of the 40-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict have proved that the entire international community is concerned about the Palestine question because it is concerned about its interests in the Middle East where lifelines run. Is not energy the source of life in the age of scientific and technological advancement? Are not energy and its strategic reservoir located in the Middle East—in the Arab region in particular? Even when the United States says that there is no relationship or linkage between the so-called Gulf crisis and the Palestine question, it is only trying to deny, obliterate,

and effectively undermine this relationship in the service of its interest in dominating the energy sources on the one hand; and consolidating its aggressive war base in the region—Israel—so that it becomes a vital part of it on the other.

At this point in particular, part of the U.S. plan of entrenching its hegemony over the new emerging world order lies in the establishment of a regional security system in the Middle East where Israel will be the most important—if not the fundamental party—alongside Arab states. Basically, to control the new world order the United States must first dominate the oil sources in the Middle East. Without the least doubt, the regional security system sought by Washington through Israel in this region is the best way of tightening that domination of the oil sources. In this context, the United States is the best to realize the reality of the linkage between the Palestine question and the Gulf crisis. It is also the best to realize the dangers that such a linkage poses to its schemes, plans, and interests.

Hence, the United States tried and will continue to try to separate the Gulf crisis from the Palestine question. The latest U.S. Administration's pronouncement in this regard is U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle's declaration that there is no relationship between the Palestine question and the Gulf crisis. Dan Quayle was reacting to the Iraqi statement which declared acceptance of dialogue with the U.S. Administration as called for by Bush. The Iraqi statement stressed that the Palestine question will remain the primary issue that dialogue with the U.S. Administration should deal with. We are not entertaining any illusions when we assert that the U.S. Administration's attempts to separate the Palestine question from the Gulf crisis is nothing but tampering which will eventually lead to nothing, except that it will stress the relationship and the impossibility and futility of separation. However, the U.S. Administration will definitely continue its propaganda and allegations that the matter is otherwise. However, reality will remain different until it imposes terms and course on the U.S. Administration and its policy.

The U.S. Administration may imagine that it is going into a dialogue with Iraq while holding all the cards of power, if it considers the UN Security Council resolutions cards of power with which it will intimidate Iraq to the extent that will enable it to impose its conditions and way of thinking on it. The U.S. Administration might not only have that illusion, but it seems it has been obsessed by this illusion. This makes us view with caution the expected dialogue in terms of the U.S. Administration's intentions and objectives. These intentions and objectives have always been aggressive toward the Arab nation and its major issues. However, we know well our Iraqi brethren's intentions and sincere desire that the dialogue be a real dialogue that leads to a joint understanding and eventually achieves the aspired peace and just solution of all the region's issues, headed by the Palestine question.

More importantly, we have absolute faith and confidence in our Iraqi brethren's ability, strength of steadfastness, and the solidity of their will which [words indistinct] the illusions of the U.S. Administration and [words indistinct] the Iraqi negotiator at the table of dialogue with the U.S. Administration. This, in itself, will abort Washington's attempt to separate the two issues. The other options will lead to the same result.

God is great. Victory is ours.

Habash Praises Saddam Initiative, Criticizes Bush
JN0212200290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT
2 Dec 90

[Text] Sanaa, 2 Dec (INA)—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), has stated that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative has reassured the Palestinian masses about the Palestine question.

In a statement to the press published here today, Dr. Habash said that since the initiative was launched the masses of the intifadah feel that they are relying on an Arab force in addition to the strength of the Iraqi Army that has great experience and has made big strides in technological progress.

Habash added that President Saddam Husayn's initiative has given the PLO an effective weapon in light of the PLO's present program. He said that President Saddam Husayn's initiative has made the U.S. Administration feel its mistake by posing the following question to Bush: Since when was there a U.S. concern about international legitimacy, and where was that concern when Israel annexed Golan and Jerusalem?

Editor Urges Security Council To 'Defuse' War
JN3011184790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT
30 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 30 Nov (INA)—The PLO has urged the UN Security Council [UNSC] to work to defuse rather than trigger war, and to heed the voice of reason to avert a catastrophe and spare the region the horrors of war and devastation.

The political editor of the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY-WAFA said the United States would do well to take stock and learn from recent and past history. It is not true that the Vietnam War experience may not be repeated. The war this time is not going to be a lightning strike, nor will it end in days or months, the WAFA political editor added.

The strategic ally Israel, which the United States is preparing to be the surprise of the war, will not be immune. Nor will shortsighted decisionmakers be impervious to an all-out uprising since an Arab soldier will in no way fight alongside Zionist soldiers against his Arab brother.

The political editor criticized certain major and smaller nations riding on the coattails of the United States as it promotes illegal and inhumane resolutions to do violence to the dignity of the Arab nation.

Fatah's Khalaf Calls for Dialogue With Lebanese

NC0312184390 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1730 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, has declared that the PLO is preparing the ground for a visit to Lebanon by a Palestinian delegation to hold talks with the legitimate authority on Palestinian-Lebanese ties.

In a press statement, Abu-Iyad pointed out that official Lebanese quarters have contacted the PLO in a bid to conduct a dialogue over the issue of ties. He added that a dialogue is imperative, but should not necessarily be based on the Cairo Agreement. What is important is the need to consolidate security in the camps to avert another Sabra and Shatila massacre, he said.

Hamas Calls for End to Anti-Palestinian 'Campaign'

JN0312135490 *Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic* 3 Dec 90 p 14

["Exclusive"]

[Text] The Hamas Movement issued a statement on Thursday in which it appealed to Arab kings and presidents to shoulder their historic responsibilities by closing their ranks and avoiding marginal differences to confront the world conspiracy concocted against the Arabs and Muslims, particularly the Palestinian and Iraqi people.

The Hamas statement calls on the kings and presidents to abide by the book of God as a strong basis for unity among the peoples of our Islamic nation, to stop the unjust campaign against the Palestinians in some Arab countries, and to absorb Palestinian workers who are suffering from the economic blockade.

Hamas also called for giving an honest, appropriate media coverage to the Palestine question and uncovering the plots surrounding it. It also called for maintaining the central position of the Palestine question in the conflict between our nation and its enemies, and ending imaginary disputes.

PLO's Qaddumi Upbeat on Settlement Prospects

PM3011115190 *Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish* 28 Nov 90 p 9

[Report on undated Tunis interview with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi by Mats Lundegard: "PLO Believes in Final Victory. 'Kuwait Crisis a Turning Point for Palestinians'"]

[Text] Tunis—The situation in the Persian Gulf remains tense. Hopes of a peaceful solution seem to be fading.

But in Tunis the PLO's "foreign minister," Faruq Qaddumi, talks of the crisis as a "breakthrough" and a "turning point." He believes that the PLO has been offered a unique chance of winning the final victory.

Saddam Husayn, he said, will withdraw from Kuwait when he chooses. In Baghdad, in the "eye of the storm," many foreign observers are talking of war as unavoidable. In Cairo the propaganda is unambiguously anti-Saddam, and the threat of war, if still distant, is nevertheless real. Western media often carry the same threatening message.

But elsewhere in the Arab world the mood 100 days after Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait is still remarkably relaxed. Observers in Amman, Tunis, and Algiers talk confidently of an Arab solution, of compromises which will bring peace and force the real intruder, the United States, to withdraw.

In Europe the PLO is described as the great loser and 'Arafat as the man who backed the wrong horse.

"Our prospects have seldom been more promising," Faruq Qaddumi, one of the veterans in the PLO leadership, said. "Our chances of achieving an all-embracing solution to the problems in the Middle East have not looked so good for a long time."

He is a short, jovial, and burly man who laughs easily and boisterously. He smokes huge cigars with which he gesticulates to underline his views. In formal terms he is head of the PLO's Political Department in Tunis, but unofficially he has for years been called the PLO's foreign minister.

It is difficult to tell whether his confident optimism is merely professional and a propaganda ploy, or whether it is simple self-deception.

He said Licit between the Palestinians and the Israelis had reached absolute deadlock this spring. When the Americans broke off the dialogue with the PLO in June the stage was set for a deterioration in political relations throughout the region, for further tensions, crisis, and chaos:

"What we needed was a Big Bang," he said, using the English words for the creation of the universe. "That was what we got. This could mean a complete breakthrough, a turning point in the history of the Middle East."

He is under no illusion that the attention of the world is focused on the Palestinian question.

It is focused on oil, or the imagined threat to the industrialized world's oil supplies. When Saddam Husayn committed his act of aggression against oil, as he put it, the world woke up.

He admitted that what is indeed important for the PLO is for it to try to exploit a security earthquake which is really about something else. He did not say so in as many words, but his arguments pointed to the clear common interests of the Palestinians and the Iraqi president.

Saddam Husayn will be able to withdraw from Kuwait with his honor intact if in retreating he is able to open the way for a solution to the Palestinian problem. With such a linkage he will win over not only the Arab world, but also domestic opinion.

With such backing he would be too tough a nut for George Bush to crack. What is important for the PLO is that it latches onto hints in the West indicating that Iraq's forcible takeover of Kuwait can be compared to Israel's occupation of Palestinian areas. The Soviet Union is making such hints as are France, China, and West Germany.

From time to time his bitterness toward the United States in particular, but also Britain, comes through.

"It is the Americans who are the intruders in the region," he said.

It is they who have constantly hampered the Palestinians' efforts to achieve freedom and rejected their compromises. It is they who lead the field in political hypocrisy when they send hundreds of thousands of soldiers to force through a UN resolution in Kuwait but ignore another resolution—the one which demands that Israel give up occupied Arab territory.

He spoke the whole time of U.S. hostility, the U.S. threat, U.S. violations. If you point out that the world has actually united behind the UN resolutions which the Americans want to enforce, he becomes selective and waves his cigar:

"Those are resolutions which the Americans have forced through," he said. "They are irrelevant."

He does not think much of Bush's promises at the United Nations earlier this fall that he will pay greater attention to the Palestinian conflict once the Kuwait crisis has been resolved:

"We have been given so many promises," he said. "But in the world of political reality we have been given nothing."

He does not trust the Americans. They do not listen to the weak, he said. The language of power is the only thing they understand, and this fall for once the PLO has talked the language of power—with Saddam Husayn.

He laughed at me when I asked whether it is not politically troublesome for the PLO to ally itself with Iraq. He drew historical parallels—for example, U.S. and British cooperation with Stalin—and quoted Churchill's "...I would get together with the devil if it furthered my cause."

"Although it is you who call Saddam Husayn the evil one," he said. "We call him an Arab, a pan-Arab."

The threat from the United States does not worry him. It is George Bush who finds himself in a dangerous position, he said. But if? If the Americans are serious and actually attack and actually drive Saddam Husayn out of Kuwait by force?

"So much the worse," he said, laughing again, although perhaps a little hesitantly. "For us and for the whole region, perhaps for the whole world."

A solution will never come about without internal Arab discussions and compromises—of that he is sure. And he dare not doubt that it will come about.

"Of course I am optimistic," he said. "That helps peace."

Algeria

Commentary on Bush Gulf Initiative

LD0112211190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] U.S. President's announcement of his readiness to initiate a dialogue with the Iraqi regime has come as a surprise to many observers. But can this initiative be considered really a surprise?

Mohammed Challouch answers this question in the following analysis:

They say that the U.S. President's initiative has come as a surprise because this was the first time that Bush combined between war and peace, declaring the former with his right arm and declaring the latter with his left.

The fact of the matter is that the Washington leader wants to rob his antagonists among the Arabs of the olive branch. When the United States comes now to propose the initiation of a dialogue with Iraq, is not really looking for peace as much as it is seeking pretexts before world public opinion in general and U.S. Congress itself, which favors waiting for the results of the U.S. economic embargo on Iraq before embarking on a military venture.

Thus the initiative—in parentheses—made by Bush was not motivated by the desire for peace and consequently is not surprising as reiterated by the information circles. Why?

First, the idea of negotiations was previously proposed by Iraq but was rejected by the Americans when the UN position was far from the war opinion—the option which the Bush Administration persisted in consecrating through the amassing of international support.

Second, Washington does not wish to enter into a war with Iraq without being sure that it will come out 100 percent victorious from such war. Consequently, it is obliged to secure the necessary pretexts that would save it from world blame should it suffer huge losses from its military venture.

Third, the United States is fully aware that Iraq possesses enormous military capabilities which would enable it to destroy a considerable part of the oil installations in Saudi Arabia and other targets in the region. This would plunge the United States and the West alike in a choking economic crisis for whose consequences the United States will alone be held responsible if it were to declare war without exhausting peaceful means, even ostensibly.

But why do we concentrate in our simple analysis on public opinion and not on the international situation. The answer is simple: First, the United States is strong by virtue of the Western alliance with it. Furthermore, it has guaranteed the Soviet support for some time, since the eastern giant fell in the lap of Western supremacy as a result of the deterioration of the economic and social conditions. Although the Soviets are trying to save face

by calling for finding a comprehensive solution in the Middle East and by proposing negotiations with the Palestinians and Israelis.

This Soviet stance makes us conclude that the whole matter was nothing more than a division of roles with the United States having the first and last word in the matter.

There is yet another factor, which we believe it to be one of the principal reasons that prompted the U.S. President to announce the idea of dialogue with Baghdad, namely, the attitude of the Arab man in the street. By his initiative, Bush wants to make Arab public opinion believe that he is a man of peace and consequently dampen its fervor and thereby influence the Arab popular solidarity with Iraq so that it could become merely lukewarm.

Egypt

Reactions to President Bush's Initiative Reported

Ghali Welcomes Initiative

NC0112093090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt welcomes U.S. President George Bush's initiative for Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to visit Washington and for Secretary of State James Baker to visit Baghdad.

The minister said that this initiative is in line with the UN resolutions that give priority to a peaceful settlement. He added that it represents a last chance to resolve the crisis through peaceful means, as Egyptian diplomacy has sought to do since the start.

Iraqi Response Examined

NC0112205990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: "Will the Expected U.S.-Iraqi Dialogue Result in a Peaceful Solutions"]

[Text] Do the developments that emerged during the past few hours regarding the Gulf crisis augur the possibility of achieving a peaceful solution to the problem and restoring matters to normal, or do they portend a serious development that would take the crisis to the brink of the abyss and result in war? We find ourselves faced with these questions in light of the UN Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq after giving it a deadline to submit to the international will and withdraw its forces from Kuwait, and also in light of the subsequent U.S. initiative which President Bush announced at an unexpected news conference. President Bush emphasized the firm U.S. stand which desires to exert every possible effort to resolve the crisis peacefully while at the same time underlining the need for the implementation of the international resolution calling for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the

restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government, as well as the release of all the foreign hostages held in Iraq and Kuwait. The initiative calls on the Iraqi foreign minister to visit Washington to meet with the U.S. President and stipulates sending the U.S. secretary of state to Iraq to meet with the Iraqi president. Iraq responded by accepting the U.S. initiative to hold a dialogue.

Despite the fact that the U.S. initiative described the Iraqi president as a dictator and that the Iraqi response to the initiative described the U.S. President as arrogant, both sides agreed to start a dialogue. However, each party has its own view and calculations. The U.S. President asserts that Iraq must commit itself to implementing the UN Security Council resolutions and comply with the will of the world. Meanwhile, the Iraqi statement said that the Palestinian issue must be the key point of the dialogue. It is clear that there is a difference in views between the two parties. The consultations between them, however, might bear fruit in achieving a solution. These negotiations could give Iraq a chance to find a way out of the critical situation in which it has placed itself. Iraq would thus find a door opened to declare that it has responded to the international will and has decided to withdraw from Kuwait.

It is true that President Bush emphasized at his news conference that nobody wants a peaceful solution to the crisis more than he does. He affirmed, however, that if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait and release all the hostages, that would be a different matter. In his statement President Bush said: We might be compelled to use force. These messages are addressed to the Iraqi president so that he realizes the seriousness of not submitting to the international will. President Bush also asserted that the world cannot possibly accept that aggression should reap rewards or allow the Iraqi president to control a number of areas rich in resources.

At this juncture, we ask anew: In light of these differences in stands, will the prospective meetings achieve results in the interest of peace or will they be a last attempt by the United States, following the issuance of the UN Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force, to spare the world the calamities of war? Will Iraq respond or will it persist in the obdurate stand to which it has adhered since the eruption of the crisis, and thus destroy humanity's hope for peace?

The whole world has given the Iraqi president more time to reconsider and to return to reason. The whole world, through the United States, is giving him a new and maybe the last chance. Will he respond? Or will he persist in his error and consequently have only himself to blame? In the latter event, the Iraqi people who remain will realize who is the real perpetrator of the crime which caused their destruction.

Initiative for Talks Viewed

NC0212075290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0642 GMT
2 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the U.S. initiative proposing meetings between U.S. President George Bush and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and between Saddam Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is the last chance to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis through direct negotiations but that are also in accordance with UN resolutions.

In its editorial today, the paper says that despite the fact that Iraq welcomed the initiative in principle, the timing of the initiative conveys a significant hint because it was announced after the UN Security Council warning to Iraq to announce its withdrawal by 15 January. The paper adds that the expected meetings between Bush and 'Aziz and Saddam and Baker have been set within this period which means that the red light is still on.

The paper explains that the U.S. initiative complements an intensive diplomatic effort to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. It adds that war will be inevitable if Saddam Husayn persists in his obstinacy, rejectionism, intransigence, and in releasing test balloons.

The paper points out that the Arab public has welcomed the U.S. initiative which gives all parties an opportunity to defuse the explosive situation and place the crisis on the negotiating table so that every party that is claiming certain rights can obtain them without threats, far from the specter of destruction.

Purpose, Prospects Examined

NC0412103390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR today agree that the U.S. initiative concerning dialogue with Iraq is the last chance for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to resolve the crisis peacefully and spare the region the woes of war.

Under the headline "An American Call," AL-AHRAM writes that the proposal put forward by U.S. President George Bush concerning the holding of dialogue with Iraq is a purely U.S. initiative, but it has international endorsement and support. The paper says that except for its timing there is no direct link between the proposal and the recent UN Security Council resolution permitting the use of force against Iraq.

AL-AHRAM says that the proposal is a U.S. "offensive" attempt to throw the ball into Iraq's court and wait for a reaction. If Iraq reacts negatively, the United States will have the endorsement and support of the world in the event of war. The paper says that Iraq's reaction to the U.S. move should be assessed in light of the content and not the mere holding of the talks.

AL-AHRAM says that the U.S. proposal aims at giving Saddam Husayn a last chance and a "face-saver" as it meets his desire to hold talks on an acceptable level. The paper notes, however, that President Bush has made it clear that what is of interest to the United States and the international community is how to achieve the principles and fulfill the demands endorsed by the UN Security Council, and not to provide anyone with a face-saving option.

The newspaper noted that the U.S. proposed visit of Tariq 'Aziz to Washington will last for a week, beginning on 10 December, and Baker's proposed visit to Baghdad will take place before mid-January, the deadline set by the UN Security Council for Iraq's peaceful withdrawal. The timing suggests that the United States and the international community are still hoping for a last-minute Iraqi retreat.

Meanwhile, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that U.S. President George Bush has given Saddam a last chance for a narrow escape, but all signs suggest that the Iraqi dictator has seen the move as proof that the United States is afraid of his lethal weapons and his foolish threats to destroy the multinational forces. The paper notes that Bush announced his willingness to hold talks with Iraq after obtaining a clear authorization from the UN Security Council to use all necessary means to implement the UN Security Council resolutions passed since the invasion of Kuwait.

AL-AKHBAR says that Saddam's sick imagination and insane dreams have reached the point where he thinks that he can intimidate all the countries that have extensive ground, navy, and air forces deployed around his country [words indistinct] cannot confront the weapons owned by the Iraqi ruler.

If this is what is actually on Saddam's mind—which is not unlikely for a man who has been carried away by dreams of leadership and notions of megalomania, a man who thinks that he can defy the entire international community and reject the UN Security Council—Saddam may commit his worst and most reckless mistake yet and reject the lifejacket Bush has thrown to him. This would lead to a deluge that would sweep away all the castles that the Baghdad tyrant has built in the sand.

If this is how Iraq's inspired genius thinks, it is the responsibility of his entourage, those who are pushing him toward an imminent disaster that would bring sorrow to the whole Iraqi people, to try and awaken him from his long spell of madness, AL-AKHBAR writes.

The newspaper concludes by asking: Will Saddam and his gang awaken from their crazy spell before it is too late?

Security Council Resolution Against Iraq Examined

NC3011161490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Commentary by Mamduh Isma'il: "The Military and Peaceful Aspects of the Gulf Crisis Reach a Danger Point"]

[Text] To begin with, we must emphasize a fact that has been strengthened by subsequent developments: When Saddam Husayn treacherously ordered the Iraqi forces to invade independent Arab Kuwait, he embarked on an act of war. He paved the way in the Gulf for a war of a larger scope involving several parties. So when the Security Council endorsed a resolution authorizing the international community to use military force to expel the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restore the legitimate government, the resolution was a response to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait by force.

The only clear difference is that the world community represented by the Security Council adopted its resolutions gradually, giving Saddam Husayn ample opportunities to reconsider his political and military calculations. This is particularly true because Saddam Husayn realized he miscalculated in dreaming of expansion and control at the expense of his neighbors when he planned to invade Kuwait and then other, later steps.

In line with the well-known behavior of the Iraqi leadership since the outset of the crisis—reliance on misleading everyone, maneuvers, deception, and playing for time—the Iraqi rejection of the new Security Council resolution was to be expected. The Iraqi regime even reminds us anew of its stark contradictions when it declared that it will not relinquish what it called its right to Kuwait. At the same time, this regime called for a dialogue with the United States over the Gulf crisis.

We are dealing with a serious crisis that cannot tolerate word play or a distortion of history. The Baghdad ruler is trying to hold on and to persuade the world of its stance. We do not want to revert to the early days of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait because the political and military developments associated with this invasion, and the Iraqi intransigence and adherence to falsehood, have run their course. Either Saddam seeks peace and withdraws his forces from all Kuwaiti territory unconditionally, or he and his advisers reject this, making a military confrontation inevitable with all the inherent devastation and destruction to Iraq, its Army, and its resources.

If the Iraqi ruler's daydreams made him think that he could bargain over Kuwait on the basis of reciprocal interests with certain regional or international countries, the Security Council resolution endorsed last night should shake him and wake him from his dreams to see the real situation around him. He must understand that there can be no negotiations until after he has withdrawn from Kuwait, and that the whole world has finally agreed on the use of force to impose legitimacy. Allowing for compassion, the resolution has given Saddam Husayn until 15 January. President Mubarak, out of his genuine

concern for Iraq and the Arab nation's potential, emphasized that a peaceful solution to the crisis could still be reached one hour before a war might erupt. He again called on the Iraqi president to reassess the situation so that the picture will become clear to the Iraqi officials. He warned of the consequences of war because the forces in the Gulf are enormous and formidable.

We tell the Iraqi president: If you look around, you will see that the picture is dark and will find yourself alone and isolated; those who were carried away with you in your reckless adventure will not be able even to protect themselves; you raped Kuwait but failed to break the willpower of the Kuwaiti people who are chasing your aggression everywhere; and neither an Arab nor a non-Arab, and not even an Iraqi, believes that Kuwait has become part of Iraq. Everyone's conviction is increasing that what has happened is an Iraqi blunder that will pass and that the Iraqi army that experienced battles in Basra, al-Faw, and the Majnun Islands realize that these battles were merely child's play compared to the imminent war that will turn Iraq into wreckage.

Thus, we do not rule out the possibility that tens of thousands of this Army will flee with the first spark of the war to save themselves from the volcanic lava gushing from everywhere. The Iraqi people would avail themselves of the opportunity to get rid of the Iraqi regime and its henchmen because it would be a matter of life or death. Despite the horror and horrendous outcome, Saddam Husayn still has the opportunity to declare that he will withdraw from Kuwait to save everything before he loses everything and history records his name in the list of leaders who committed suicide because of their greedy ambitions and are constantly damned by their peoples for the destruction and devastation wreaked by them.

Kuwaiti Ministers Arrive in Cairo for Talks

NC0412085490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0025 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, Kuwait's information minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Dari al-Uthman, Kuwait's minister of justice and legal affairs, arrived in Cairo tonight.

In an arrival statement, Dr. al-Ya'qub said that his visit to Egypt is his first following his appointment as information minister. He added that the Kuwaiti leadership has asked him to convey a message of love and appreciation to the Egyptian people and government, as well as to President Husni Mubarak.

Asked about President George Bush's initiative to send U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad and to receive Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Washington, Dr. al-Ya'qub said that it is a good initiative and noted that President Bush made the initiative to the Iraqi regime following the UN Security Council resolution.

Al-Ya'qub described Bush's initiative as a last message and notice and said that its goal is to explain the international viewpoint and resolutions concerning the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The Kuwaiti information minister expressed the belief that it would be a suitable move for the Iraqi regime to accept the restoration of the legitimate government to Kuwait. Al-Ya'qub said that the Egyptian media have participated in unveiling the lies disseminated daily by the Iraqi media.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif welcomed the two ministers at the airport.

Coverage of People's Assembly Elections, Incidents

Five Killed, 92 Injured in Disturbances

NC3011185290 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] It was announced today in Cairo that five people were killed and 92 others injured in disturbances that accompanied the parliamentary elections in Egypt. According to news agency reports, firearms were used in a clash between police and some villagers at a location close to the Mediterranean city of Damietta. The clash left three people killed and 63 injured, including two policemen. Police vehicles were set on fire.

According to Egyptian security sources, seven other people were injured in other incidents. Clashes between police forces and Muslim activists in Upper Egypt left three policemen and three activists injured. A woman was also killed in a clash in Cairo.

Sidqi Comments on 'Reruns'

NC0112160490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT
1 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has emphasized that the government observed complete neutrality during the People's Assembly elections. He pointed out that no executive agencies interfered in the election process.

In a statement today, Prime Minister Sidqi said that the reason there will be reruns of the elections in several constituencies is that a great number of candidates from various political parties were contesting the results. This, he said, caused a fragmentation of the votes among several candidates, most of whom could not obtain the absolute majority needed to win in the first round.

Dr. Sidqi affirmed that the government will continue to observe complete neutrality in the election reruns that will be held on Thursday [6 December].

Interior Minister Issues Statement

NC0312205390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1855 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Statement by Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa at a news conference in Cairo on 3 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God, who hath guided us to this felicity; never could we have found guidance had it not been for the guidance of God. [Koranic verse] Verily God said the truth. Brothers and sisters: I am pleased to announce the results of the People's Assembly elections held on Thursday, 29 November 1990, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 73 for the year 1956 and Law No. 38 for the year 1972 and the subsequent laws amending them. These elections were held throughout the governorates of the republic to choose 444 members from 222 constituencies. Each constituency is to be represented by two members, at least one of whom is either a worker or a farmer. A total of 2,861 candidates representing various parties as well as independents contested the elections, which were held on the basis of the individual candidacy system.

From the beginning of the preparations for these elections and until their results were announced, the state's institutions and departments made sure that all candidates were given equal opportunities. The candidates were allowed to announce their programs at hundreds of election rallies and through the media services, including the state media. [passage omitted]

According to reports received by the Interior Ministry's departments, some isolated riots and attacks took place. The security authorities immediately brought these incidents under control and contained them. Some attacks also took place against some branch polling stations. Furthermore, some objections were submitted and were investigated by members of judicial bodies and supervisors at the main polling stations. The public prosecutor has also been asked to investigate these objections and incidents.

In general, violations connected with the election process occurred in 37 branch polling stations out of a total of 23,839 polling stations, equal to 0.0015 percent.

Brothers and sisters, the People's Assembly elections held on Thursday, 29 November, have produced the following results:

1. The total number of registered voters was 16,273,616 citizens.
2. The total number of voters who cast their ballots was 7,314,893 citizens, a turnout of 44.95 percent.
3. Winners have been declared in 57 constituencies.
4. Runoffs among four candidates will be held on Thursday, 6 December, in 96 constituencies.

5. Runoffs will be held among two candidates in 69 constituencies.

6. The total number of winners is 183 candidates.

Brothers and sisters, an objective glance at the dimensions of these elections reveals a significant transformation in the course of democratic development in Egypt. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stressed his commitment to democracy as a way of governing. He has fulfilled his promise and has been true to his pledge. He has given democratic action new vistas that will enable it to continue and grow in strength. [passage omitted]

Further on Statement

NC0312212990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has stated that no extraordinary measures have been taken against voters who rioted in some polling stations in favor of some candidates. He added that all those who were arrested during the incidents which occurred in some governorates are now being interrogated by the public prosecutor, who has ordered that some of them be detained.

The interior minister also stressed that the police maintained complete neutrality and integrity toward all candidates. He said that the police had no interest in seeing one particular candidate win or in interfering in the expression of the nation's will because ultimately all the candidates were Egyptians.

This came in a news conference which the interior minister held this evening to announce the results of the first round of the People's Assembly elections. [passage omitted]

The interior minister said that the results of the first round of the elections are as follows: 144 candidates from the National Democratic Party [NDP] won; 208 others will participate in the runoff elections. Four independent candidates affiliated with the NDP won; 170 others will participate in the runoff elections. Ten independent candidates not affiliated with any party won; 103 others will participate in the runoff elections. None of the independent candidates affiliated with the Socialist Labor Party won; 15 others will participate in the runoff elections. Four independent candidates affiliated with the New Wafd Party won; 16 others will participate in the runoff elections. None of the Socialist Liberal Party candidates won; one candidate will participate in the runoff elections. One candidate from the National Progressive Unionist Party (NPUG) won; eight others will participate in the runoff elections. None of the candidates from the Misr al-Fatah [Young Egypt] party, the Democratic Unionist Party, or the Greens Party won. [passage omitted]

Opposition Urged To Join System

JN0212175090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
1 Dec 90 p 6

[Editorial: "A New Phase"]

[Text] As of today, newly elected members of the People's Assembly will begin reporting to the Assembly's general secretariat to fill out membership forms and apply for the various specialized committees in preparation for the beginning of the new Assembly's first session as soon as the reruns in certain constituencies are over.

The new People's Assembly will assume its legislative and supervisory responsibilities with a big credit of democratic practice and freedom, represented by the election battle and its progress in all governorates, from the guarantees and complete neutrality with candidates to popular selection through the individual election system. The people have put their vote in the right place as testified by the majority, the opposition, observers, and the entire people for whom the media sent a lively and accurate picture of all the constituencies. The voting took place calmly and with enthusiasm. The calm of elections was only disturbed by few individual incidents that cannot be compared with the number of those who cast their votes or with incidents that take place on similar occasions abroad.

If democracy is bolstered by participation, as President Mubarak stressed in the statements he made after meeting with the election committee, the opposition parties that boycotted the elections are urged to reconsider their negative attitude that will alienate them from ordinary Egyptian citizens and make them mere newspapers that have parties. This is because they are part of the system, and because the dear Egypt is heading toward a new phase in the next five years, a phase which calls on each citizen to proceed courageously to the arenas of production and public action and place his resources and talents in the service of the homeland so that the prosperity and well-being we are seeking can be achieved; so that we can overcome the economic difficulties and increase production; and so that we can make the best use of the resources and energies we have.

Ghali Says France Protecting Nationals in Chad

NC0212153590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt is closely following developments in Chad. He added that the French authorities have notified the Egyptian Government that they have taken measures to protect the Egyptian experts and nationals who are working or living in Chad.

Transit Rights of Falasha Jews Reportedly Denied

NC0412115790 Beirut AL-SHIRA in Arabic
3 Dec 90 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Refuses Passage to Falasha Jews"]

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have rejected an Israeli request presented through the Israeli Embassy in Cairo that an Israeli El Al airplane from Ethiopia be allowed to fly over Egyptian territory en route to the occupied territories. The plane will be carrying 165 Falasha Jews residing in Ethiopia who have been recently permitted by the Ethiopian authorities to immigrate to Israel in accordance with an agreement that was recently concluded in the Ethiopian capital between Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and the Israeli labor minister, assisted by extremist Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen. These two Israeli officials visited Ethiopia recently to conclude an agreement on a new Israeli-Ethiopian deal under which the Ethiopian Government would pledge to allow Falasha Jews to immigrate to Israel in return for financial and military aid, as well as periodic commercial and agricultural services over a period of five years.

Cairo responded to the Israeli Government's request by saying that Cairo absolutely refuses to participate in such a deal which harms Egypt and its Arab and international position. The Egyptian authorities warned the Israeli Government not to allow its planes to approach Egyptian airspace or they will be attacked.

Libya's Abu-Zayd 'Umar Ends Visit, Departs

NC0412141590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Abu-Zayd 'Umar, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee, and the accompanying delegation left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Libyan official met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and conveyed an oral message from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi. [passage omitted]

Reconciliation Efforts in Somalia Examined

NC0312182090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Commenting after his meeting with the Saudi and Somali foreign ministers, Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated that the discussion centered on the situation in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized Egypt's eagerness to maintain Somalia's independence and unity and to exert all efforts to achieve reconciliation.

He added that a roundtable meeting will be held in Cairo on 11 December involving all the disputant parties in Somalia.

Asked if the Somali Patriotic Movement will be represented at that meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: The situation is not yet clear concerning this movement. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed the hope that the ongoing efforts will lead to stability in Somalia.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students on Role of Egypt

LD0212194190 Tripoli JANA in English
1755 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Kanun [December] 2, JAMAHIR-IYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution gave a lecture to the students of political sciences at Al-Fatih University.

The leader of the revolution highlighted the importance of the Arab world in the schemes of international game. Regarding the comparison between various parts of the Arab world, the leader said that Egypt was the utmost preoccupation of the West, the Americans and the Israelis for it constitutes a threat to the usurping Zionist entity and it leads the battle of liberation and resistance against imperialism, colonialism, Zionist settlement and reactionaries and for this role Egypt constituted a danger to reactionary, treacherous and puppet regimes linked to the West and their protection was of interest to the West..The role of Egypt, while leading the battle of liberation, went beyond, in its danger, the Zionist entity which represents the advanced base of the West, to extend to the racist regimes in South Africa. This role expressed by Egypt during the days of 'Abd al-Nasser until the Ramadan war which made it a target for the West and Zionism hence all their efforts were concentrated on Egypt either to win it or eliminate it.

The leader added The role of other Arab countries seemed little compared to Egypt and its importance..And when Egypt ceases to pose a threat to imperialism, Zionism and reactionary regimes which the West is interested to protect, the attention of the West switches to other positions amongst them Iraq..

By comparison, Iraq now is militarily a powerful state, an oil country situated at the head of the Gulf which is the source and store of oil from Saudi Arabia to Abu Dhabi. Also Iraq enjoys water resources including rivers and lakes and more than that Iraq has a strategic position for being a bridge linking strategic geographical areas (the USSR, Iran and Turkey). These areas are of great importance to the West.

However, Egypt opens on Arab deserts which do not lead to any strategic target, suffers from demographic explosion, with the Nile as the sole source and in this respect Egypt is threatened by other countries which the Nile crosses like Ethiopia and Uganda which may enhance

the role of the Zionist entity in this respect which goes as far as instigating the cutting off water resources on Egypt if not the destruction of its resources.

The leader said Al-Sadat entered the Ramadan war and it was him who decided that and was an arch enemy of America and the Israelis, like Iraq now, and he came out of the battle as the closest friend to them and furthermore the Ramadan war culminated in the recognition by Al-Sadat of the so-called. He was entrusted with the role of the policeman in favour of the West..That's what happened be it a game and production or the truth.

The leader of the revolution said Iraq might become, one day, another Egypt and the same role might be entrusted to it regardless whether the confrontation on Kuwait ended peacefully or by war..Any regime which the West may create in Iraq will be a source of terror against Syria in favour of the Israelis and protect the Western oil interests in the Gulf..And the alliance of Baghdad is not that far as history repeats itself.

He added Egypt has to compensate for that by resuming its unionist role at least and to be the capital of the Arab unity.

The leader of the revolution lauded the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and its rare courage in confronting the blockade. He pointed out it is strange that Bush was [words indistinct] to force the members of the Security Council to endorse the use of force but so far failed to obtain the same from the members of the American Congress thus the members of the Security Council became more American than the Americans themselves.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives SSNP Delegation

LD0312133390 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received a delegation of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP]—the Higher Council, consisting of Party President Dawud al-Baz; Higher Council Chairman Hafiz al-Sayigh; and Council Secretary Tawif Muhanna.

Mauritania

Arrests, Military Staff Deaths Reported

LD0312221890 Paris International Service in French
1830 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] A wave of arrests in Mauritania in black African circles: Various sources agree that more than two hundred arrests took place in the last two weeks. These arrests were aimed at the Foulah in particular, many naval officers, as well as executives in the customs and finances sectors. No official reason has been given for most of these arrests. The authorities have, however, mentioned embezzlement in the cases of a few of them. On the other hand, several Mauritanian military staff are reported to have died in obscure conditions.

Sudan

Rebel Army Reportedly Controls Border With CAR

EA0312181990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Another garrison town falls to the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in western Equatoria, bringing the total number of the towns captured in western Equatoria to 16 in less than two weeks.

In their continuing drive, the Bright Star campaign phase three commando forces yesterday, Sunday, 2 December 1990, overran and captured the strategic garrison town of (Sorsiyubu) on the border with the CAR [Central African Republic]. (Sorsiyubu) controls the major highway from the CAR town of Obo to Tambura and Yambio. It is the only road that links Sudan with the CAR; and the capture of (Sorsiyubu) means the SPLA now effectively controls the CAR border with the Sudan.

Fighting for capture of (Sorsiyubu) started at 2300 hours on 1 December 1990; and at 0600 hours on 2 December 1990, the SPLA overran the garrison and the remnants of the enemy garrison fled across the border to the CAR, leaving behind 22 dead and two who were wounded in action, captured. The fleeing soldiers could not be pursued in respect for the international border with the CAR. [passage omitted]

In a related development, the enemy in Tambura, unaware that SPLA commando forces had captured (Sorsiyubu), sent reinforcements under Major Badr al-Din. The reinforcements fell into a deliberate SPLA ambush at 0800 hours, 2 December 1990. The whole force was destroyed and their two vehicles captured along with a land-rover mounted with a 12.7-mm general purpose heavy machine-gun and a Gronov heavy machine-gun, all in good condition. Twenty-one enemy soldiers were killed, eight captured, and the rest scattered. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, heavy fighting continues around Maridi. The enemy was forced to evacuate Khawr Ramlah outpost on 29 November 1990, leaving behind AKM, PKM, and G-3 ammunition. And yesterday, Sunday, 2 December 1990, Bright Star campaign phase three forces dislodged the enemy and captured (Lamama) outpost only one mile from the enemy garrison headquarters in Maridi. Bright Star campaign phase three forces are now in firm control of the area to the east of Maridi town. All government officials and the civil population have deserted Maridi town.

Tunisia

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Bush Initiative

LD0112183490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Statement issued by an "official source" in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tunis on 1 December—read by announcer]

[Text] The Tunisian Government has received with satisfaction U.S. President George Bush's initiative calling for direct negotiations with Iraq, as well as the Iraqi authorities' response to these proposals.

Tunisia considers this initiative as a consecration of its stance toward this crisis and all international issues and of its continuous pursuit of peaceful solutions within the context of commitment to the firm principles on which Tunisian foreign policy is based. These respect international treaties and the peaceful solution of disputes.

Tunisia hopes that these negotiations will lead to a result which will spare the region the dangers and sufferings of war and will open a new horizon for establishing security and peace in the Gulf and in the Middle East.

Bush Proposal for Negotiations Seen as Hopeful

LD0112114290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] U.S. President George Bush surprised the world, before the ink of the UN Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq had even set, by inviting Iraq to the negotiating table, announcing also that he will invite Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, to Washington and that he might send his secretary of state, James Baker, to Baghdad to hold negotiations on the Gulf crisis.

Can this surprise, which President George Bush has sprung on the world, be regarded as a turning point in the U.S. position? The odd thing is that only two days ago President Bush announced his categorical refusal to hold negotiations with Baghdad before Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. Furthermore, the United States deployed all efforts to ensure the adoption of the new UN resolution, which legalizes any military attack it might launch on Iraq to drive it out of Kuwait.

Such a double position falls in line with the traditions of U.S. policy, and is in keeping with its method of waving the card of peace while raising the stick, so as to enter negotiations from a position of strength. This explains why the U.S. President announced his initiative on the same day that the United States announced that it was continuing to reinforce

its troops in the Gulf, sending 300 further aircraft and 10,000 military personnel, including pilots and technicians, while previously announced U.S. reinforcements continue to pour into the Gulf from Europe.

The United States has refused since the start of the Gulf crisis all the peace proposals made by Iraq since 12 August, which called for the establishment of a new era of peace in the Middle East based on the settlement of all the region's problems: in other words the Gulf crisis, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the removal of all manifestations of occupation. Iraq, for its part, stressed officially and firmly, through its higher command which gathered yesterday at the joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the leadership of the ruling al-Ba'th party, its rejection of the new resolution, saying that Iraq and its people will not bow to the threats of force and that it is ready to fight a war whatever its consequences.

Two conclusions can be drawn from all this. The first is that President Bush was hoping, through the adoption of the new UN resolution, on the use of force to intimidate Iraq. The move was obviously just an operation of psychological warfare—part of a well-prepared scenario. The objective, however, was not achieved. Then it was necessary to find a way out of the crisis and reduce an escalation which could only lead, with Iraq sticking to its position, to an explosion and a catastrophe. Moreover, more and more Americans are now opposed to such an eventuality, starting with a large number of leaders and members of the U.S. Congress, and including many prominent U.S. figures and former military commanders in addition to humanitarian, religious, and other organizations.

The second conclusion that could be drawn from the U.S. President's initiative is that it was aimed at completing part of a previously prepared scenario, timed in

advance, to be announced after the adoption of the new UN Security Council resolution. In so doing, the United States was attempting to have the world and history bear witness to the fact that before resorting to force, Washington had used every means to avoid the confrontation, while in fact it is preparing itself for it by sending all the firepower it can muster. The option of force still exists, as President Bush himself stated yesterday.

In any case, it is hoped that the U.S. initiative is really aimed at defusing the bomb, avoiding a terrible catastrophe, and making the language of wisdom and reason triumph, establishing peace throughout the region by removing all manifestations of occupation and by seeing to it that justice is done to the Palestinian people, who are fighting for their right to live on their land and establish their independent state under the cover of international legitimacy and UN laws and resolutions, which were used to tackle the Gulf crisis but whose implementation was not forced upon Israel.

It is also hoped that the next 45 days will bring serious changes for peace, and will not be a waiting period for the execution of the military option. This is exactly what Tunisia has always called for, since the start of the crisis: that is, to make the language of reason triumph, avoid the military option, and implement international legitimacy in all the Middle East issues. Then, perhaps, the Arabs will succeed, as President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has urged them to do from the outset, in containing the crisis by themselves—and perhaps they will mobilize their efforts to back everything that could support the peace process, and reject the option of destruction. Perhaps they will also come out with an effective collective initiative in this respect, which would be on a level with the serious responsibility they are assuming.

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Satisfied With 15 Jan Deadline *LD0412113290 London KUNA in Arabic 1004 GMT 4 Dec 90*

[Text] Washington, 4 Dec (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, last night expressed his satisfaction with the result of his meeting earlier yesterday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

On his part, Baker justified the surprise initiative made by President George Bush last Friday toward Iraq and which provided for the dispatch of the U.S. secretary of state to Baghdad for talks with President Saddam Husayn and the White House meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz.

In a statement to KUNA following his meeting with Baker, Shaykh Sabah said that the meeting "was very important." He added: "I have come here for two reasons: The first is to thank, on behalf of his highness the amir of Kuwait, the Kuwaiti Government and people, and the U.S. Government and people for their support for Kuwait."

"The second reason," he added, "is to talk about this initiative. We are happy that they have given the Iraqis until the middle of January." The reference here is to the ultimatum the United Nations Security Council has given to Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait or face all necessary means including the use of force to expel them from Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah said that if the [Iraqi] forces do not withdraw by that date, "it will be permissible for all to do whatever is required to drive them out."

The senior Kuwaiti official flew to Washington to meet Baker from New York, where he had taken part in a series of contacts which led to the adoption of Resolution 678 by the UN Security Council, which gives Iraq a respite until mid-January. The resolution was adopted last Thursday [29 November] and is the 12th in a series of resolutions adopted by the council since the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait on 2 August.

Before his hour-long meeting with Shaykh Sabah, Baker was asked why the United States wants face-to-face meetings with the Iraqis when it had repeatedly announced that the conflict in the Gulf was not about "the United States against Iraq, but about Iraq against the world." He replied by saying: "Many countries have held direct talks with the Iraqi leadership [words indistinct]. However, he later stressed [word indistinct]: "We have not dismissed force as an option." The meeting was attended by the Kuwait ambassador in Washington, Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, and some senior officials of the U.S. State Department.

Envoy in Algeria Confirms Purchase of French Arms *LD0312110290 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] Algiers, 3/12/90 (APS)—The Kuwait ambassador to Algiers, Yusuf al-'Anayzi, confirmed in an interview to the Algerian evening daily "LE SOIR D'ALGERIE" that France granted sophisticated arms to Kuwait. The Kuwaiti ambassador declared that the cooperation between France and Kuwait is not something new. There are a lot of contracts relative to the arms and equipment buyings. He added that what is happening comes within the frame of these contracts execution.

The ambassador further affirmed that the present conditions make that the Kuwaiti army is ready to free the country since it is the only alternative.

Moreover, al-'Anayzi indicated that the hope of the Kuwaitis is that Iraq could recover its wisdom by withdrawing its troops from Kuwait.

Says Purchase Includes Missiles

*LD0312185890 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1702 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] Algiers, December 3 (TANJUG)—Kuwait has contracted the purchase of French weapons and military equipment, including "Exocet" missiles, valued at 900 million dollars, Kuwaiti ambassador to Algeria Yusuf al-'Anayzi said here today.

The ambassador said that the Kuwaiti Army had to get ready for the struggle against the aggressor and the liberation of the country. He believes that a war in the Gulf was the only solution which can be anticipated since all attempts for a peaceable settlement have failed due to Iraq's intransigency.

The Kuwaiti diplomat said that his country's wish was that Iraq accepts a peaceful solution and withdraws from Kuwait, adding that Kuwait would be liberated and its previous status restored.

Qatar

Bush Proposal for Talks With Iraq Welcomed

*JN0312143290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT
3 Dec 90*

[Text] Doha, 3 Dec (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has welcomed U.S. President George Bush's proposal to hold a dialogue with Iraq.

A responsible source at the Qatari Foreign Ministry said today that Qatar considers the proposal a positive step in line with the world community's resolutions calling for a full and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti government under the leadership of His Highness Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and the release of foreign nationals.

The source told the Qatari News Agency that the proposal is the last chance for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Urges Saddam To Pull Out of Kuwait

LD0312191990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, this afternoon chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Following the meeting, Minister of Information Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: The custodian of the two holy mosques began this session with a brief review of the current events in the Gulf and new Arab and international developments in the light of last Thursday's United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 678.

Al-Sha'ir added: In this regard, the king acquainted the Cabinet with the various meetings and discussions he has had with emissaries of friendly and fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Sha'ir added that as a result of these meetings, the custodian of the two holy mosques explained to the Cabinet that the fraternal and friendly countries have continued to renew their full support to the Kingdom through such emissaries and on all occasions. He added that the king, may God support him, said this proves the extent of respect and admiration this country enjoys because of the sublime position the Saudi Arabian Kingdom occupies among the world nations and peoples and because of being rightful in all its measures and decisions vis-a-vis the unexpected, treacherous Iraqi aggression on the fraternal State of Kuwait.

We still hope, the king added, that President Saddam Husayn will withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait so that its legitimate authority will return under the leadership of its amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and consequently the Iraqi forces stationed on the borders of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom will be removed. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, may God preserve him, added: Once more, I wish to reiterate what I said before; namely, that we see nothing disgraceful in taking such a step, and there is nothing to prevent it from being taken if the Iraqis sincerely wish to keep the specter of war away from the region and deal with the dangerous situation with reason and wisdom. This is because all the world countries are determined to lift the injustice, liberate Kuwait, and restore matters to what they were before 2 August.

The minister of information added: Afterwards, the cabinet discussed a number of issues on the Cabinet's agenda and adopted a number of decisions concerning them. [passage omitted]

GCC Defense Ministers Meet in Riyadh 4 Dec

LD0412120290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1052 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Dec (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the defense ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member countries this afternoon began their ninth meeting at the headquarters of the GCC general secretariat in Riyadh. The ministers held a meeting in camera.

U.S. Talks Offer to Iraq 'Linked' to Ultimatum

PM0412110590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 2 Dec 90 p 2

[Samir 'Atallah article: "War and an Initiative!"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday was a holiday, and strangers spend holidays in hotel lobbies reading newspapers and waiting for the next flight.

In the Gulf Hotel lobby I met more than a dozen Kuwaiti friends, among them Deputy Faysal al-Darwish. They too had gone there to spend the holiday in the hotel lobby hall instead of taking the weekly trip into the countryside. There was one question: What will George Bush do, now that he has been given the war resolution by world states? [passage omitted]

We woke up this morning in Abu Dhabi to find that the United States has overturned all expectations. All headlines, of course, are on the Bush initiative. GULF TIMES photographer Matyur al-Rahman summed up the question in a color photograph of a chess game with the black pieces for Iraq and the white for the alliance, with a white piece advancing with one move to go.

Since 2 August and amid the military escalation, Washington has for the first time entered the game chosen or enjoyed by Iraq—the game of diplomatic moves and maneuvers and of words in a question raised on the scene.

So the U.S. initiative seems to have opened a door leading to a long corridor. It was clear that it was Washington which confined dialogue to the bilateral framework, with Kuwait—and Kuwait alone—remaining as the basis. But the negotiations framework is now confined or linked to the international warning, namely to a specific ultimatum. And it will not be possible in the six weeks to resolve all the issues raised by Baghdad with its visitors, who have each returned with a group of men, women, or children. Thus efforts must be focused on one issue—to remove the fuse or to leave it as it, that is, to withdraw from Kuwait or reject the international warning.

[Kuwaiti Prime Minister] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said that he did not want to refer the issue to another Arab summit, lest the Kuwait issue get buried in the "committee cemetery." But it seems that it will not now be lost in the lake of dialogue or the new corridor. What is striking is that the U.S. initiative was only announced

following that resolution—the first of its kind in UN history. And Bush spoke about it only after he had conferred with those concerned with the issue.

So yesterday, and for the first time since the invasion, there emerged two parallel lines on a straight road, or rather two trains on two parallel tracks. Which will arrive first—that is the question.

United Arab Emirates

UN Delegate Assails Iraqi 'Brutality'

JN3011115490 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT
29 Nov 90

[Text] United Nations, Nov 29 (GNA)—United Arab Emirates (UAE) condemned Iraq's brutality and oppressive measures against the Kuwaiti people and called for international intervention to bring an end to the sufferings of the brotherly Kuwaiti people.

The Iraqi aggression on Kuwait was not only posing unprecedented threat to the Gulf region...but was also dangerous to the peace and security of the world as a whole, Muhammad Husayn al-Sha'li permanent representative of the UAE at the United Nations told the Security Council session on the Gulf crisis and its repercussions last night.

He pointed out that Iraq's violation of human rights and its oppressive measures forced three-quarters (3/4) of the Kuwaiti to leave their homeland.

Al-Sha'li called on the international community to protect the Kuwaiti civilian population in line with Geneva 4th Convention calling for safeguarding civilians and their properties in war times.

Yemen

Vice President Leaves for Talks in Jordan, Iraq

JN0312154890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Vice President Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid left for Amman today on a working visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Iraq.

In a statement to SABA, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid explained that his visit is part of our country's intensive efforts aiming at containing the Gulf crisis and resolving it peacefully. He pointed out that during the visit he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan who [words indistinct] the Gulf crisis in making intensive efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully, and with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of Iraq and senior officials in both countries [words indistinct] to exchange viewpoints with them on the developments in the region in light of the recent UN Security Council resolutions, and the U.S. initiative to hold dialogue with Iraq.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said that on this occasion he would like to stress the need for the Arab countries to play a role in searching for a peaceful, political solution to the crisis, moving to reunite Arab ranks and strengthen solidarity among the Arab peoples, and searching for realistic solutions and practical outlets that would help provide the appropriate conditions to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. He stressed that condemnations alone and repeated denunciations in the various media will not help resolve the crisis, and cautioned against resorting to the use of the military force and [words indistinct]. This option will only bring destruction to the region and expose world security and stability to great dangers.

Vice President brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid pointed out that our country, which refuses the use of force as a means to resolve crises and which stands against war, has been careful to call on all good, peace-loving forces, all those concerned about security and stability in our Arab region, and the entire world to make further efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. It also calls for the withdrawal of all forms of foreign presence in the region to spare the region the dangers of war and to strengthen trust and cooperation among its peoples. [passage omitted]

'Aziz, Italian Foreign Minister To Meet in Rome*JN0412161190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1600 GMT 4 Dec 90*

[Text] The French foreign minister announced in Brussels a short while ago that today the EC has approved in principle a meeting between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his Italian counterpart, Gianni de Michelis, whose country is the current EC chairman. According to Roland Dumas, the meeting will be held in Rome following the Iraqi foreign minister's return from his anticipated visit to Washington.

Soviet 'Experts' Free To Leave 5 Dec*JN0412093090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT
4 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—Iraq has decided to allow whoever desires of the Soviet experts working in Iraq to travel as of tomorrow, Wednesday, provided that the Soviet Government will exclusively assume the responsibility for the consequences of breaching contracts as a result.

This came in a statement made to INA by a spokesman for the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

The following is the text of the statement:

An RCC spokesman has stated the following: We said on numerous occasions that the Iraqi people have had a good tradition of friendly ties with the Soviet peoples. The Iraqi people and leadership have always looked forward to propitious circumstances to revive the principles and policies governing ties based on mutual respect and strong eagerness to develop these ties in the interest of the two friendly countries and peoples. Therefore, to maintain ties between the two peoples as they were meant to be and as we want them to be right now, and to avoid any confusion and befuddlement on the issue of Soviet experts and also to prevent any deals at this stage that some Soviet officials, regrettably, seek to conclude, we have decided to allow whoever desires of the Soviet experts to travel as of tomorrow, Wednesday 5 December 1990, provided that the Soviet Government exclusively assumes the responsibility for the consequences of breaching contracts as a result.

Western Experts Continue Work in Arms Factories*AU2811113690 Vienna KURIER in German
28 Nov 90 p 5*

[Karl Wendl report from Baghdad: "We Stay Because We Earn Good Money"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] German "guests of Iraq," who were kept in factories in Taji (cannon factory), Al-Mawsil (military research center—under the cover names of SAAD 16 and SAAD 21 a number of Austrian companies also worked in this center), or Samarra (chemical factory) report "that work continues in these factories under the instruction of Western experts."

The provision of supplies to Baghdad via Amman continues to function, too. Every day an Iraqi Airways plane flies from Amman to Baghdad and back. In this Boeing 727, in which Austrian beer is served, there are not only Iraqi returnees but a strikingly high number of Western businessmen. It is to be assumed that these businessmen do not go to Baghdad simply out of personal pleasure....

Japanese Dietman Seeks Meeting With Saddam*OW0412042790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0243 GMT
4 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 4 KYODO—A visiting Japanese wrestler-turned Dietman will appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on Tuesday for the release of Japanese hostages detained by Iraqi authorities, Japanese sources said.

Antonio Inoki, in Baghdad since Saturday with 38 family members of Japanese hostages, will make his appeal in a letter to Husayn after being unable to obtain assurances on the release of the Japanese hostages in separate meetings on Monday with the chairman of the Iraqi National Assembly Sa'di Mahdi Salih and the chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee Uday Saddam Husayn. Uday is a son of president Saddam Husayn.

A total of 114 Japanese nationals are being held hostage in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

At a meeting with Inoki, Salih hailed Inoki's efforts to hold a two-day "festival of peace" in Baghdad, which ended Monday, saying he believes that true peace is sure to come, the sources said.

Salih, however, did not comment on the possible release of Japanese hostages, the sources said.

The festival, which started on Sunday with soccer games, also included rock music concerts and traditional entertainment from Japan and Iraq.

Inoki told Uday he wanted to meet President Husayn. Uday promised that if Inoki wrote a letter to the president he would hand it to him, the sources said.

Prior to the meetings, the families of the Japanese hostages made a plea to members of a women's organization in Baghdad on Monday, calling for the release of their relatives.

According to the sources, most of the 38 family members of the detained Japanese want to extend their stay in Baghdad in the hope that the visit will result in the release of their relatives. They were originally scheduled to return home on Tuesday.

Postpones Departure

OW0412104290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1010 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 4 KYODO—Pro wrestler-turned-parliamentarian Antonio Inoki put off his departure for home Tuesday and said he is working on a joint communique with the son of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn raising hopes that it may lead to the release of Japanese hostages in Iraq.

Inoki told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that he was working on the communique with Iraqi Olympic Committee President 'Uday Saddam Husayn.

Inoki, who has been to Baghdad three times on behalf of the Japanese hostages since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, was scheduled to fly to Amman on an Iraqi Airways charter Tuesday morning and arrive Wednesday afternoon in Tokyo.

But Inoki was called back from the Baghdad Airport just before his scheduled departure.

The House of Councillors member and 38 family members of the Japanese hostages arrived here Saturday with an entourage of rock musicians, pro wrestlers and martial artists to stage a two-day "festival of peace" and urge the release of the hostages.

Inoki made appeals to Sa'di Mahdi Salih, chairman of the Iraqi National Assembly, and 'Uday Saddam Husayn during talks Monday, but could not obtain assurances that the hostages would be released.

Sa'di praised Inoki's efforts with the peace festival, while 'Uday, eldest son of President Saddam Husayn, promised to deliver a written appeal to the Iraqi leader from Inoki.

Meanwhile, a number of the family members who came with Inoki vowed Monday to remain in Baghdad "until the hostages are released."

The family members met Sunday with 36 of the 114 Japanese hostages held by Baghdad at the al-Mansur Melia Hotel and urged members of a women's organization in Baghdad on Monday to help them gain the release of their relatives.

Baghdad is holding 114 Japanese nationals in Iraq and occupied Kuwait as human shields against a possible attack by the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf region.

Army Redeploys Troops of Turkish, Kurdish Origin

JN0312202490 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
2 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that at the orders of Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi Army command has recently transferred all Iraqi soldiers of Turkish descent from their positions near the Iraqi-Turkish borders to other locations to prevent their escape to Turkey, especially since a large number of them were recently able to

escape. The Iraqi Army command has also transferred Iraqi soldiers of Kurdish descent to Kuwait in order to keep them away from Kurdish areas, out of concern that they might join the Kurdish movement opposing Saddam's regime. High-ranking diplomatic sources have said that the Iraqi command has begun classifying Iraqi soldiers according to their racial and regional affiliations in order to secure control over the Army. It has also issued orders authorizing immediate capital punishment of any Iraqi soldier who withholds information from Baghdad about deserters.

1,416 Children Said To Die Because of Embargo

JN0312163790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1510 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has announced that 1,416 children under five years of age have died in the past months because of the embargo on medicine imposed on the people and children of Iraq.

The health minister told INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] today that because those children had not received the necessary medication for their treatment, this caused a deterioration in their health and they were afflicted by suffocation, which led to their deaths.

The health minister said that because the deceased had not received proper milk in the amounts required for balanced, sound nourishment, they suffered malnutrition and their health deteriorated. Consequently, their bodies were no longer able to resist microbes. They were therefore infected by contagious and inflammatory diseases, in addition to the fact that they did not receive the necessary medication. This caused the death of this number of Iraqi children.

The health minister pointed out that failure to vaccinate children and complete the vaccination cycle due to the lack of vaccines subjected their health to diseases known to afflict children.

The health minister wondered about the agreement on children's rights approved by the UN General Assembly during its 44th session, which provides for protecting and looking after children at all times and circumstances, in peacetime and wartime alike.

He pointed to the unjust, void resolutions issued by the Security Council under the pressure of the United States and its allies, describing them as illegitimate and inhuman because they totally contravene international resolutions approved by countries of the world.

The minister underlined a number of world conferences which affirmed the rights of children, including the WHO conference held in 1978 in the USSR, which issued a well-known document providing for the broad, basic concept of health for everyone in the year 2000. The minister added: How can health be for everyone while there are unjust resolutions that deny the children of Iraq vaccines and medicines? The minister also referred to the world

summit conference for childhood which was held in New York last September, with the participation of 165 countries, noting that the conference upheld children's health and nutrition to reduce the mortality of infants and children and stressed the importance of motherhood to provide the basic needs of children. The conference also considered this issue to be an indispensable need at all times. The health minister highlighted other recommendations adopted by this conference, which held that the recommendations concern not only the children of the current generation, but future generations as well, and that most diseases suffered by children which cause death at present can be prevented by vaccines or treated effectively by medicines.

The health minister concluded his statement to INA by saying that the number of children who died in the past period since the enforcement of a blockade on Iraq provides strong evidence of [words indistinct] of the United States and its allies and of the human duty which calls for serious solidarity with Iraq against this irresponsible behavior, which will inevitably result in woeful consequences and human losses, not only for the children of Iraq, but also for all the sons of Iraq.

The health minister called on medical organizations and human societies and the Red Cross and Crescent in the world to work in order to end the injustice done by the U.S. medicine and food blockade on Iraq and its people, including children.

INA has also learned that the Ministry of Culture and Information will issue a special brochure in the five international languages which includes detailed information on cases of children's deaths caused by a lack of medicine since the unjust U.S. blockade was enforced on the people and children of Iraq.

Paper on Bush 'Crimes' Against Children

JN2911121190 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT
29 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 29, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said here today that it is true, however, that starvation in Iraq is not likely very soon, thanks to both the efforts of the Iraqi authorities and the tolerance of the Iraqi people. But this in no way means that the hardship will be manageable overnight. There remains the appalling problem of baby milk and medicine shortages. A number of fatalities have been reported in Iraqi hospitals. The reason: Delayed dispensing of medicine because of non-availability.

A daily editorial said President Saddam Husayn attributed the tragedy to medicine shortages. Iraqi health officials said children had to be admitted for emergency treatment of nutrition-related diseases.

It added that conscientious people around the world can not remain silent as dozens of Iraqi children are pronounced dead, world public opinion must be alarmed

and should express indignation now that selfish politicians especially in the United States and in some European allied countries seem to be determined to commit more crimes against the children of Iraq.

But everyone knows that crime does not pay. Accomplishes must pay, too. A few months ago, a "deranged" man opened fire from a sub-machine gun at a primary school in a town in the United States killing and injuring a dozen of school children.

The daily added that the incident aroused the entire American population and they demanded that the man, though insane, be hanged. Another man, U.S. President George Bush, hopefully sane, is trying to kill hundreds of Iraqi children not with bullets but by denying them milk and medicine.

There is a public outcry over his continued crimes against the Iraqi children demanding that the perpetrator pay for his action now and lift the embargo. Otherwise the price will be much higher.

Belgian Planeload of Medicine Arrives in Baghdad

JN0212162990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] A special Belgian plane arrived in Baghdad at noon today carrying eight tonnes of medicine and antibiotics as a present from the Belgian Red cross to the Iraqi people. Carol van der Kof [name as received], director general of the Belgian Red Cross, who delivered the medicine, said that the consignment includes baby medicine and antibiotics. She added that the Belgian Red Cross has decided to supply the bloodbank project belonging to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society within the framework of cooperation between the two societies.

Ramadan Says Peace Possible Through Dialogue

JN0312184690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1754 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Mr. Ivan Gilos Majirac, chairman of the World Peace Council. [name and title as received]

The first deputy prime minister said a real and comprehensive peace can be achieved through sincere intentions and positive climates that are free of any obstructions or military and economic pressures. He pointed out that any negotiations can achieve success through serious and in-depth dialogue to resolve all problems in the region, because they are interrelated.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the war which Bush wants to ignite cannot resolve the problems or achieve peace but, rather, will create further problems and deprive the region of security and peace. He stressed that the U.S. administration does not show respect for the

peoples or pay any attention to the serious consequences due to its colonialist, hegemonic, and aggressive policies. [passage omitted]

Speaker Stresses Baghdad's Readiness for Peace

JN0312191090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih this morning received Mr. Ivan Gilos Majirac, chairman of the World Peace Council, currently on a visit to Iraq.

During the meeting they conducted a comprehensive and detailed review of Iraq's positions and initiatives proposed by President Saddam Husayn to achieve peace, face aggression and the Atlantic fleets, and open up a comprehensive dialogue with the people in order to achieve the principles of justice among the world states.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih stressed Iraq's absolute readiness to achieve a just peace on solid foundations that can guarantee stability and progress for all peoples of the region. He cautioned against the danger of the language of threats and aggression by the United States through the policy followed by U.S. President George Bush to stage an aggression against Iraq and its people, children, and women. He stressed that peace and stability can be achieved only if all essential problems in the Arab region, particularly the Palestine question, are dealt with. [passage omitted]

Paper Urges Linkage of Regional Problems

JN0412123890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has affirmed that there can be no peace in the region without recognizing the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

In an editorial published today, the paper says: Any endeavor to establish peace in the region must seek to resolve all of the region's problems, foremost among which is the Palestine question.

The paper indicates that when it announced, through its victorious leader Saddam Husayn, the 12 August initiative and affirmed its readiness to resolve the Gulf crisis if all regional problems are resolved comprehensively once and for all, Iraq was not only shouldering its pan-Arab responsibilities and nurturing pan-Arab principles. No, an awareness of its international and regional responsibilities was also behind the launching of this initiative.

The paper adds: If the Gulf crisis were to be discussed in isolation from the Palestine question and the Lebanese crisis and the problems that they generated, the two issues, and particularly the Palestine question, would remain a volatile and explosive powder keg.

The paper affirms that the war against Iraq, the failure to resolve the explosive Palestine question, as well as the achievement of Israel's expansionist and military objectives for whose attainment this statelet was established in the first place will remain one. [sentence as received]

The paper adds: He who is eager to achieve peace should be aware of the need to establish a linkage among all problems in the Arab region in accordance with uniform standards and with an overall perspective and not on the basis of the illegitimate interests advocated and the political favoritism demonstrated by the United States in its handling of the Palestine question and in which it has displayed blind bias in favor of the Zionist entity against the Arab nation.

The paper stresses that Bush's rejection of dialogue and peace through his refusal to establish a linkage among regional problems and his determination to wage war and aggression is not only meant to serve the U.S. colonial and imperialist interests, but also to fragment the Arab nation and keep it hostage to the brinkmanship created by the Zionist entity through its aggressive posture and existence.

AL-QADISIYAH says: Bush has chosen to forget that the wiles of the magician may turn against him. Bush might rely on the support of Fahd and Husni. When the confrontation starts, however, he will be surprised that the Arab troops stationed in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] will act in a way that shows them as brothers of Iraqi troops. He will see that Arab rifles will meet to fire their bullets into the chests and backs of the U.S. invaders, the enemies of Arabs and Muslims.

Concluding its editorial, the paper affirms that peace in the region is attainable if justice, human values, and the security needs are heeded to turn the Middle East region into a real oasis of peace through resolving all of its problems. Otherwise, all other paths are deadlocked and the end would be a grinding war, which neither we nor the honorable and virtuous people in the world want or seek. However, we are ready to wage this war and crush the aggressors if they impose such a war on us. When this happens, they will reap nothing except disappointment and failure.

Paper on UN Resolution, Bush Proposal

JN0212183090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1205 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Broadcast of editorial appearing in 2 December AL-THAWRAH entitled: "A Paid-For American Resolution"—read by announcer]

[Text] The U.S. Administration commits a grave error and will be under a big, destructive illusion if it imagines even for one moment that the shameful, illegitimate UN Security Council Resolution No. 678 can give an iota of legitimacy to its open and aggressive conspiratorial scheme against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Those who were behind this resolution would make a mistake if they were to believe that the world public opinion is unaware of the method by which this resolution was issued, the dirty deals that preceded it, and U.S. pressures and haggling that paved the way for its adoption. Regardless of the trumpeting of those who sing the praises of this resolution and no matter how happy they are with it, it will remain null and void, just like the other inhuman and unjust resolutions which the Council has issued over the past four months.

It is no longer secret that the governments of some member-states in the Council were paid the price of their support for the resolution in the form of grants and loans from America and its henchmen at the bazaar which the United States opened only two weeks before the convocation of the session that had been arranged for the issuance of that resolution. Tremendous pressures were brought to bear on other member-states by Bush himself and his secretary of state. It is shameful enough for those who were paid for their votes that Baker openly admitted that he offered certain incentives during his meetings with the foreign ministers of the UN Security Council member-states in exchange for the support they gave for the resolution.

Therefore, it is an American resolution from A to Z. It is a paid-for resolution. Indeed, it is the worst political and moral scandal that the UN Organization has witnessed in the past decade. This scandal demonstrates how low the Security Council has sunk after being transformed into a pliable tool and repressive organ, implementing the aggressive, evil U.S. aims.

It is perfectly clear that the resolution is a basic link within the extensive and feverish U.S. endeavors to give a false cover of legitimacy and consensus to the U.S. Administration's decision to launch a blatant war of aggression against Iraq. Moreover, this resolution does not express the real will of the international community, but truly represents U.S. will and its evil, aggressive instincts.

By this resolution, the U.S. Administration has used the last card it possesses in terms of U.S. pressure and blackmail, as well as political, economic, and psychological terrorism; however, great Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn and his excellent management of the conflict, will remain proud and firm, challenging the gathering of evildoers and tyrants, refusing to concede any of the national rights or historical achievements or move a hairsbreadth from its unchanging, principled stand on all national and pan-Arab issues.

It is certain that this new American resolution will not harm Iraq's steadfastness or affect its steel will and its determination to challenge the invaders and aggressors and teach them lessons that are unprecedented in history.

By rejecting this scandalous resolution, Iraq, along with all Arabs, Muslims, and fair-minded peoples in the world, are rejecting this flagrant discrimination and this double-dealing with international problems and are

calling on the Security Council to follow unified policies and standards and renounce tendentious selectiveness and double standards, which it has been pursuing in dealing with the Arab nation's problems, if it really wants to be a council for international security and not a council for war and a cheap tool in the hands of world imperialism. The 12 August initiative of the historic leader Saddam Husayn constitutes a correct opening and firm basis for solving all the region's problems and crises, led by the Palestinian problem, and ensuring peace, justice, and security for all the peoples of the region.

By clinging to a relentlessly arrogant attitude and falsifying facts and slogans, the U.S. Administration is leading the whole world as well its allies down the road to total destruction and inevitable catastrophe. All the armies and armadas assembled by Bush and the nervous and wrongful resolutions he pushed through the UN Security Council—along with his warlike rhetoric and psychological war—have been to no avail against a powerful, steadfast Iraq. It follows that the new resolution, which came as no surprise to Iraq, given the American escalation of the situation, rather than weakening the determination of the brave Iraqis, will stiffen their resolve to take on American injustice and tyranny.

Now, at the peak of preparedness to defend their land, honor, and national and pan-Arab sovereignty, the Iraqis will crush all America's allies and slaves in the region, above all the regime of the betrayer of the two holy mosques, who has turned the land housing sanctities into a nest for plotting machinations and a launch pad for aggression.

Having consistently shown itself to be disposed toward peace and equal dialogue to sort out all the regional problems, and having acted with a deep sense of responsibility and genuine concern to avoid war and spare the region horrors, Iraq consented to President Bush's proposal for Iraq's foreign minister to go to Washington for talks and for his secretary of state to come to Baghdad for talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

However, Iraq is interested in serious and meaningful talks. Iraq does not want a formal kind of meeting, which Bush would use as a way out of his domestic crisis and a fresh alibi to present to the American public for his aggression on Iraq. Furthermore, Iraq wants to talk with the U.S. Administration as an equal interlocutor, and expects reciprocity insofar as interests and legitimate rights are concerned. Iraq will not tolerate condescension, arrogance, and bluster. Whatever the motives underlying this proposal, these are bound to become known, and the U.S. President will not be able to conceal them for long. We will then know whether Bush was making his proposal in good faith or whether the aim was to assuage the concerns of the Congress and public and the world at large.

Be that as it may; driven by an entrenched belief that peace is the high road to life, Iraq will pursue any window of opportunity for dialogue in preference over bellicose rhetoric.

Paper on U.S. 'Cheap Deals' To Buy UN Votes

JN2911100390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0801 GMT
29 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the U.S. resolution being prepared by the Security Council against Iraq is not only a blatant violation of all standards of humanity, peace, and legality but is a declaration of war on all the good and honorable forces in the world.

In its editorial today, the newspaper expresses the opinion of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and says: What should be denounced and condemned are the cheap deals and agreements in a high-demand market for buying stands and guarantees. Some hastened to sell their votes for calculated prices and amounts of dollars which, at times, reached the millions and even billions bracket.

The paper affirms Iraq's correct evaluation of the stands of these sides. It says: Our evaluations this time were not far wrong regarding the stands of the various international sides, some of whom responded to the pressures and threats, while others submitted to the power of the paid price in an attempt to secure a place on the American bandwagon.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH concentrates on Iraq's stand which rejects these resolutions and selective and double-standard stands which only serve the imperialist goals in the region, protect the Zionist entity, and allow its racist elements to implement its expansionist and settlement schemes at the expense of the Arab nation. It warns the allied forces against aggression against Iraq. In the final analysis, increased oppression is coupled with increased resistance by the oppressed and they become forced to confront it.

The paper recalls the fedayeen operations which proceeded from Palestine, Egypt, and Lebanon, saying that their message and moral is clear.

Paper on Bush Efforts To Allay Fears of War

JN0312121490 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 3, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily of Baghdad today said that any battle waged under the banner of President Saddam Husayn would decisively achieve victory.

A daily editorial said that Bush remarks that the tragedy of Vietnam would not be repeated in the Gulf was true since the big devastation that would effect the American invading forces would be much more bigger than those in

Vietnam and that America would suffer tragedies that will take long time before forgetting them.

The daily said that Bush was trying through deception to calm down panic affecting the American people over a protracted war that would devour thousands of their sons for the sake of objectives that do not serve their interest.

AL-QADISIYAH further said that the American president is disillusioned when he talks about limited losses in his aggression on Iraq thinking that his airforce would settle the battle forgetting that wars are settled through the ground battle in cooperation with all types of weapons.

It pointed out that American invading forces would wage a battle on the ground and face Iraqi combatants who are experienced in long years of fighting under geographical [conditions] and climates wellknown to them and assisted by sincere faith in the just issue against those occupying the Moslem sanctities.

U.S. 'Plotting' Said To Have Started 8 Aug 1988

JN2911163890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1447 GMT
29 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received the delegation of the Tunisian committee in support of Iraq led by Dr. Hisham Ju'ayt.

The first deputy prime minister stressed that American plotting against Iraq began on 8 August 1988 after the end of the Iraq-Iran war when Iraq emerged strong and victorious with advanced military and scientific industries.

He said that the U.S. Administration has come with its fleets and armies to the region in collaboration with its slaves and servants of the traitor Arab rulers, and its allies, to carry out an aggression against Iraq because it has become a force the Arabs are proud of.

The first deputy prime minister praised the Arab masses' growing enthusiasm and readiness to fight in defense of their rights under President Saddam Husayn. He said that the Arab masses stand on the side of every brave Arab leader who rejects slavery, injustice, and plundering. He pointed out that the sons of Arabism, throughout the Arab homeland, possess the potential to threaten the interests of America and its ally, the Zionist entity, and topple all the dwarf rulers who relinquished their Arab honor in order to protect their shaky thrones.

Taha Yasin Ramadan hailed the Tunisian people's pan-Arab posture, which reflects their genuine Arab affiliation and rejection of all the policies that seek to humiliate the Arabs and to keep them backward and subservient.

Members of the delegation of the Tunisian committee in support of Iraq stressed their pride in President Saddam

Husayn's leadership, which has restored the Arabs' dignity and status. They declared that all Arab masses are ready to confront the aggression and to make sacrifices to defend their threatened rights. They also stressed that the United States, its allies, and slaves will be defeated by the Arab will.

Paper Criticizes Former 'Opponents of Imperialism'

JN0412115090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Iraq will neither bargain over its principles regardless of the circumstances nor fear the armies and fleets deployed by the capitalists in Arab lands and waters.

In an article published today, the paper says that the United States has not left any means to harm Iraqi and Arab interests untried. Similarly, it has used every possible occasion to show its hostility against the sound pan-Arab policies pursued by Iraq. When there is nothing left in its power to do, it asks its "old" and "new" followers to act to achieve U.S. objectives.

The paper says that, when it sensed that its threats and intimidation had failed to eat away even a small chip from the Iraqi cliff, the Bush administration began to buy "the others" who do not mind selling themselves. This is how it handled the UN Security Council member states. Some of these states opposed these cheap bargains. However, most of them endorsed the law of supply and demand recently employed by U.S. capitalism to entice those who had rejected that law in the past.

The newspaper adds: That is why we have recently begun to hear threats and intimidation from some of those who sold their principles in the U.S. free market—threats and intimidation aired on the same frequency used by Bush to transmit his hostile statements. Those who were strong opponents of imperialism are now using excuses that they know to be false and incorrect just to line up with American imperialism.

Concluding its article, the paper says: We in Iraq have not feared the armies and fleets massed by capitalists in Arab lands and waters. Nor will we fear the threats made by others, because we are on the side of right and also because we do not bargain over our principles regardless of the circumstances. If zero hour arrives and war breaks out, nobody will deter us from setting the earth ablaze under the feet of invaders regardless of their nationalities.

Delegation Head Says Americans Prefer Dialogue

JN0312133790 Baghdad INA in English 1128 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 3, INA—A delegation of the U.S. popular peace association, attending the world friendship and peace camp in Baghdad, confirmed that the

recent U.N. resolution against Iraq formed an obstacle in the way of peace and would escalate tension in the region.

In a statement to INA, head of the delegation Shelly Douglas confirmed that majority of the American people is against presence of the U.S. forces in the Gulf and preferred restoring to direct dialogue for solving all problems of the region.

Mrs. Douglas urged the parties and organizations concerned all over the world to exert more efforts and withdraw foreign military troops from the holy Arab lands to ward off the spectre of war.

The delegation expressed high appreciation to the Iraqi leadership and people for facilitating their visit to Iraq for cementing peace and friendship relations with the Iraqi people.

Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega Confers With 'Aziz

JN3011151290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1416 GMT
30 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's former president. They exchanged views on the current situation in the area and discussed ways to achieve peace and stability and remove the specter of war from the region.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs; the senior under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and the chief of the International Organizations and Conferences Desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Minister Meets Soviet Petroleum Official

JN0212082290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister, has met with K. Arakelyan, representative of the USSR Government and Soviet deputy minister of construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises. They discussed the prospects for Iraqi-Soviet industrial and oil cooperation.

The meeting was attended for Iraq by the under secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization, the under secretary at the Ministry of Oil, and the director general of the Oil Projects Company. The Soviet ambassador in Baghdad attended for the USSR.

Al-Jasim Briefs French Intellectual on Kuwait

JN0412121390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2117 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim received the well-known French intellectual Roger Garaudi today. The minister

reviewed with Garaudi the historical fact of Kuwait being part of Iraqi territory, the defunct regime's plotting, and the American military concentrations that are beating the drums of war and imposing an unjust economic blockade against Iraq.

The minister added that 1,416 Iraqi children had died as a result of the unjust economic blockade and the lack of medicine and children's vaccines, at a time when the Croesus of Kuwait possesses \$60 billion, the interest on which alone is enough to change the situation of the Arab peoples, including the Palestinians, the Mauritians, and the Sudanese, of whom thousands are dying of starvation.

The minister stressed that the logical solution to all the issues was defined by President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, and that others should leave the Arabs alone to resolve their problems by themselves.

Roger Garaudi said that the majority of French people are against war, and that we should prevent Bush from launching war because this would inevitably lead to economic collapse. He added: We must explain to the world that Kuwait is no more than an issue that was created by colonialism. He said that America wants to improve its economic conditions through war.

Mr. Garaudi said: We know that the Croesus of Kuwait's brother and wife have funds that equal all Africa's debts to the world. The French intellectual stressed that those who claim to be defending international law and legitimacy are in fact defending a situation that was created and left as a legacy by colonialism in the region.

Ramadan Meets With Jordanian Dentists

JN0312192890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received a delegation of the Jordanian Dentists Association headed by the Association's president Dr. 'Irfan Sultan.

The first deputy prime minister said that pan-Arab ties and the common destiny of all sons of Arabism have become a tangible reality. He also said the mass uprising throughout the Arab arena against the U.S. occupation of Arab and Muslim sacred places has proved that the Arabs are one people, and that the treacherous and agent Arab rulers represent no one but themselves.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the power of the Arab masses is the strongest weapon in the battle. The masses, he said, have volunteered to defend their security, freedom, and wealth, and the enemies and their allies and slaves will be surprised by the size and effect of this power. The first deputy prime minister hailed the genuine pan-Arab positions of all Arab organizations and unions which demonstrated their genuine Arab affiliation and adherence to their rights and struggle [jihad] for

the sake of Arab dignity and right. He hailed the Jordanian brothers' heroic stands on all pan-Arab issues. [passage omitted]

Australian Peace Delegation Speaks With Ramadan

JN2911152490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1419 GMT
29 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received the Australian peace delegation, which includes Tom Uren and Al Graspi [name as received], former planning and immigration ministers.

Ramadan said that the Arab region has been suffering from various problems for many years, and that the absence of a solution to these problems had further complicated them. He added: It is time now for a quick, radical, and comprehensive solution to all the region's issues so that security, peace, and stability will prevail in the world.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that Bush's aggressive policy will lead the world to a catastrophe because it is based on an erroneous concept; namely, that America is a trustee of people and consequently it can occupy their territory, control their resources, and deprive them of their wills.

The Australian peace delegation stressed that Australian and world opinion reject any form of aggression and the use of force to resolve problems, pointing out that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative is a serious, just, and comprehensive initiative. The delegation also stated that it is the Palestinian people's right to demand their usurped right, and that the UN Security Council shoulders a legal and humanitarian responsibility toward applying its resolutions to the Zionist aggressors.

'Aziz Confers With Yasir 'Arafat on Crisis

JN0212143390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT
2 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. They discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena. The meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and 'Abdallah Hurani and the head of the Arab department at the Foreign Ministry.

Ramadan Meets PLF's Muhammad 'Abbas

JN0212162490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT
2 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, received today Palestinian struggler Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu-al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF). The first deputy prime minister said that the U.S. acceptance of

the dialogue repeatedly demanded by Iraq signals a retreat from its positions after realizing that world and Arab public opinion has discovered its misleading and false objectives, which aim only at serving U.S. interests.

Ramadan pointed out that the extensive activity in the United States and Europe to oppose Bush's hostile policy—activity being conducted by parliaments, organizations, figures, and gatherings—is aimed at solving problems through negotiations and achieving a comprehensive peace in the region.

Abu-al-'Abbas affirmed that the world has begun paying more attention to the Palestine question, and it has also adopted serious and public positions calling for the restoration of the usurped Palestinian rights in implementation of international legitimacy.

He added that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative has revived the Palestinian people's rights, pointing out that the Palestinian revolutionaries and the Palestinian people's intifadah are stepping up their steadfastness and challenges to all repressive actions and brutal massacres being carried out by the Zionist occupiers.

Swiss Red Cross Delegation Departs 3 Dec

JN0312185590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—The Swiss Red Cross Society delegation, headed by Society President Dr. Karl Kannel, [name as received] left Baghdad today.

In statements to INA, Dr. Karl Kannel said that during his visit to Baghdad he held successful talks with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, and it was agreed that the Swiss Red Cross Society will provide Iraq with consignments of medicines and medical equipment as a gift from the Swiss people to the Iraqi people.

He also voiced gratitude and appreciation to the leadership and people of Iraq for the good care given the Swiss guests.

Capucci Praises 'Noble Gesture' Toward Italians

JN3011130590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT
28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, the archbishop of Jerusalem in exile, and his delegation left Baghdad today at the conclusion of a 10-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Archbishop Capucci expressed his and the delegation's pleasure and pride in meeting with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He praised the president's noble gesture allowing a large number of Italian nationals hosted by the Iraqi people to leave Iraq.

Archbishop Capucci described His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative as great. He added that the initiative would contribute toward attaining realistic and comprehensive solutions to all

regional problems. Moreover, he reaffirmed his rejection of the war option that is being adamantly pursued by the United States and its allies. He also stressed the importance of dialogue and negotiations in resolving all regional problems.

Saddam Approves Gulf Council Peace Initiative

LD3011144890 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1239 GMT 30 Nov 90

[By Salih Konjodzic]

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 30 (TANJUG)—Well-informed sources in Baghdad have launched reports to which Iraqi President Saddam Husayn gave a "green light" to Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati to launch a peace initiative together with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The initiative would probably lead to a settlement of the Gulf crisis.

The possibility, which emerged after the Husayn-Velayati meeting on November 14, was kept in utmost secrecy. However, the speculations have now leaked in the light of additional pressures and the U.N. Security Council resolution.

AL-QADISIYAH, the newspaper of the Iraqi Defence Ministry, has quoted the Qatar daily GULF TIMES as saying that the explosive situation in the Gulf can be resolved only through joint efforts of "six Arab Gulf countries" and Iran.

The mention of the "six Gulf countries" has provoked great interest among the Gulf public, since the Arab "six" include Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and—Kuwait.

Since it is claimed that this is not a mere mistake, this means that the six countries which should reach an agreement deliberately include Kuwait.

This view is supported by an increased diplomatic activity within the "six" and Iran, starting from the recently announced arrival of the Iranian foreign minister in Oman's capital Muscat for talks with Sultan Habush, the GCC chairman.

A few days ago, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz also visited Oman, carrying Saddam Husayn's personal message for Sultan Habush.

Although many circumstances surrounding this latest peace initiative are still a closely guarded secret, it is nevertheless believed that Iraq's acceptance of Kuwait's inclusion in the initiative is a great step forward compared to Baghdad's stand that it would never withdraw from the annexed country.

It is also believed that Velayati's mission in Muscat has the "blessing" of all Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and the Kuwaiti amir in exile, Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah.

Observers in Baghdad are trying to figure out what kind of an agreement this could lead to, emphasizing that all sides

are "ready for such a step," including Iraq. Such an agreement should please everyone, above all Iraq and Kuwait, but also the interests of the United States and its allies.

All these speculations have come to the fore at a time when the "countdown" in the Gulf has begun, after the U.N. Security Council resolution setting the time limit for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait at January 15.

Speaker Accuses U.S. of 'Preplanned' Hostility

JN0212134390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT
2 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—Under the patronage of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, functions of the "Voice of World Peace from Iraq" festival, which will continue over two days, began today.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih represented His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in opening the festival.

In an inaugural speech, Salih said that this meeting, this sweeping world gathering, is a new response to the appeals dictated by the human duty to enhance the opportunities for peace, dialogue, and understanding among peoples to ward off and avert the specter of war and remove anything that would lead to catastrophe and mass destruction. He added: This gathering also confirms the sincere desire of all world peoples to consecrate the human values that ensure that all people will commit themselves to the principles of right and justice. Similarly, this is further evidence that the war drums beaten, the threats voiced, and the extortion demonstrated by the U.S. Administration and its allies do not express the peoples' desire but rather a selfish and parochial perspective and racist and hostile calculations that hold in contempt norms and laws and refuse to succumb to reason and logic.

The National Assembly speaker warned that the present situation is very serious and portends incalculable catastrophes, not only for the region, but perhaps the entire world.

He accused Washington of threatening world peace and security, saying: These dangers lie in hostile U.S. behavior based on intransigence, hollow arrogance, and the claim of responsibility—as if the U.S. Administration alone is responsible for and in charge of controlling the safety valve of world affairs, whereas reality shows that U.S. behavior is completely at variance with this claim.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih stressed that what happened recently at the UN Security Council and its resolutions on the Gulf incidents, including the resolution sanctioning the use of all available means, was an expression and implementation of a preplanned hostile imperialist policy against Iraq and the Arab nation within the framework of a horrendous scheme using international legitimacy for hostile aims and personal gains that have their origins in the Zionist view of the regional situation.

He said this had robbed the Security Council of much of its credibility and turned it from an international institution defending peace and dialogue into a mere satellite of the U.S. policy and nothing more than a warmonger.

He said that the world order has been shaken by these setbacks and lost its balance and ability to respond to events at a time when the world is expecting the Security Council to seek ways and means to achieve peace and drive away the specter of war and give the concerned parties more chances along this road and prevent the distortion of its humanitarian principles, which are derived from the UN Charter and the charter on human rights. [passage omitted]

Saddam Congratulates Jovic on National Day

JN3011135090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0852 GMT
29 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has congratulated Borisav Jovic, chairman of the Presidential Council in the SFRY, on the occasion of his country's national day.

In a congratulations cable sent to President Jovic, the president wished the friendly Yugoslav people abundant health and happiness as well as progress and prosperity. He also expressed his hope that relations between the two countries would develop to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Sharon Compares Baker Trip to Chamberlain Mission*TA0312182590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] Addressing AJC [American Jewish Committee] members today, Minister Ari'el Sharon called on the United States to ensure that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is removed from power. Sharon became the second Cabinet minister to compare the scheduled trip to Baghdad by Secretary of State Baker with the efforts of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain before World War II. On Saturday, Minister Yuval Ne'eman made similar comments and was widely criticized at yesterday's weekly government meeting.

Minister Ne'eman on Baker Trip*TA0112172590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Text] Yuval Ne'eman, the minister of energy and infrastructure, science, and technology, said that U.S. Secretary of State Baker's planned trip to Baghdad is akin to Chamberlain's trip to Munich. Minister Ne'eman asserted that the Israeli Government must be prepared to withstand incredible pressure from the United States and from Western countries, adding that he has no doubt that the compromise that will eventually be reached on the Gulf crisis will come at Israel's expense.

Minister Ne'eman also told our political correspondent Arye Golan that at tomorrow's Cabinet session he will propose sending emergency food and drug supplies to the Soviet Union.

Arens Hopes U.S. Diplomatic Move Bears Fruit*TA0312180090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Excerpts] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that anyone who believes that two separate economic entities can be established—one in the territories and another in Israel—is either naive or ignorant. The defense minister also said that he hopes the U.S. diplomatic move will bear fruit and that a political solution is preferable to the use of force. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports:

The issue of escalated violence and the question of whether it will result in the rebirth of the Green Line were again raised in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Coming out of the meeting, Defense Minister Moshe Arens pointed out what he had made clear in the meeting itself: The Israeli Government will not act for the establishment of two separate entities. [passage omitted]

The defense minister said that he is not concerned about the contacts between the United States and Iraq because their outcome can be positive.

[Begin Arens recording] I think that the answer to the question of whether there is room for concern will be received only after the first contacts between the United States and Iraq are held. We accept the U.S. President's statement as it was made: This is the last effort to see whether the problem can be solved under terms set by President Bush before resorting to force. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[In a similar report on Arens' remarks at the Knesset committee, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 3 December quotes Arens as saying, "If Bush's terms are met and his goals achieved, there will be an improvement in Israel's strategic position."]

On another issue, the defense minister said that the tragic outcome of the clash in Har Dov should not make us oblivious to the fact that the northern border is closed. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] operate day and night, and even last night, five terrorists, who tried to infiltrate through the northern border, were killed. [passage omitted]

Sources Hope U.S. Won't Allow Diversion From Gulf*TA0112182390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Text] Israel reacted this evening to the recent developments in the Gulf crisis by expressing the hope that the United States will not allow Saddam Husayn to divert attention from his aggression against Kuwait by raising other problems for discussion.

Political sources in Jerusalem told our political correspondent Arye Golan that they believe that Washington's policy has not changed with President Bush's new initiative and that the United States is still interested in achieving and is still motivated by the same goals vis-a-vis Iraq as at the inception of the crisis. Our correspondent pointed out that the developments around the Gulf crisis may be discussed at tomorrow's Cabinet session.

Navy Stops 'Suspicious' Boat Off Gaza, Kills One*TA0412052990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 4 Dec 90*

[Text] The Air Force and Navy captured last night a boat containing five suspected terrorists. The boat was spotted during a routine Navy patrol off the coast of the Gaza Strip near Dayr al-Balah.

Military sources said a Dabur—a patrol boat—spotted a fishing vessel that appeared suspicious. The Navy ship signalled to the boat to stop, but the suspicious vessel continued to make its way in the Mediterranean. The Navy ship summoned help, and the helicopters began to give chase after the fishing boat and forced it to land on the beach of Dayr al-Balah. An Army force was waiting there to arrest those on the fishing vessel. One of the crew on the fishing boat, however, tried to escape.

Soldiers first fired warning shots and then began to fire toward him. The suspect was killed and four others on the boat surrendered.

Authorities said they are investigating whether the crew is connected to the recent wave of sabotage in the area. They did not issue any details.

Air Force Raids 'Terrorist' Targets in Lebanon

*TA0112110690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Text] Before noon today Air Force planes raided terrorist targets west of Zahlah, in central al-Biqa'. The targets were hit, and all our planes returned safely.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the bases raided belong to the Popular Struggle Front and were used as points of departure for attacks against Israel. A squad of this organization was involved two weeks ago in the clash at Har Dov in which the late Lieutenant Yaron Yogev was killed.

'Abd-Rabbuh Supporters Establish 'Democratic Front'

*TA0212070990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 2 Dec 90*

[Text] In the territories, the rift among the ranks of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], Nayif Hawatimah's organization, has led to a split. The supporters of the organization's number two man, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, established a separate entity at the end of the week. Our correspondent in the territories, Arye Gus, reports:

Two years after 'Arafat's declaration of the independence of a Palestinian state and three years after the outbreak of the intifadah, the rift in the DFLP between Hawatimah's and 'Abd-Rabbuh's supporters has become a reality—so far only in the territories, but this will conceivably also affect the umbrella organization.

In the wake of a series of recent meetings, an organization called the Democratic Front was formed last week. Forty-five people were elected to the executive committee headed, apparently, by Zuhayra Kamal, who has recently been ousted from her post as leader of the DFLP's women's organization. Hawatimah's supporters, who advocate an inflexible and extremist line toward the peace process and who charge 'Abd-Rabbuh with losing their identity and melting into Fatah and the PLO, have recently taken over all the DFLP's organizations in the territories: a workers' organization, a women's organization, a press office, and more. Now the members of the Democratic Front, the new organization, accuse Hawatimah's organization of suppression, undemocratic conduct, scheming, and other things.

The PLO and the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which runs the intifadah, have been promised: We will remain true to the consensus and will adhere to the intifadah. We urge the establishment of the broadest

possible front uniting all the national elements, and we honor the Palestine National Council's resolutions.

Meanwhile, the internal killings continue: A man was killed in Rafah over the weekend and his brother was seriously wounded. An elderly woman was murdered in a clinic at al-Burayj refugee camp, and her son was assassinated by masked individuals a year ago. An assassination was attempted in 'Abasan, and there were disturbances in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The Unified National Command of the Uprising, for its part, last night came out with a new leaflet on the occasion of the intifadah's third year. It contains a call for the PLO to convoke the National Council and step up the intifadah in every way and sets days for strikes and intifadah activity.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 2 December adds that the Unified National Command's leaflet "welcomes the latest killings along Israel's borders." The report also adds that "the curfew on the Jabalyah refugee camp and the towns of Bayt Lahiyah and Bani-Suhaylah was lifted this morning. Laborers departed for work in Israel as usual today."]

DFLP May Drop 'Abd-Rubbah

*TA0312124290 Jerusalem AL-NADWAH in Arabic
30 Nov 90 p 1*

[Text] Jerusalem—The disagreement among the cadres in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] is still intense. Recently there was a clear split in the ranks of DFLP activists, reflecting the disagreement between DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, his deputy.

With the backing of Samiha Khalil, head of In'ash al-Usra Society in al-Birah, Hawatimah's supporters recently announced the dismissal of Zuhayra Kamal from her post as head of the Women's Labor Committees Federation, as well as the election of 'Adnan al-Kaylani as chairman of the Trade Unions General Federation, replacing Mahmud Ziyada. Zuhayra Kamal and Mahmud Ziyada, though, announced that they still hold their jobs.

In a previous issue, AL-NADWAH published a report about extensive differences between the two splinter groups in the DFLP here and in Jordan. Nayif Hawatimah's group is accusing Abu-'Ammar (Yasir 'Arafat) of backing Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in the dispute between the two sides.

AL-NADWAH has learned from a responsible source in the DFLP that the DFLP Executive Committee is to convene in Tunis on 15 December where the topic of dismissing Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh from the Executive Committee is expected to come up.

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from every inch of the territories. There is genuine fear in Baghdad, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia today. Everybody knows that if war breaks out, the cost will be very high. Everybody is prepared to compromise, and if there are negotiations everything will be open to discussion."

Sharon Comments on Green Line 'Buffer'

TA0312142390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon said today that the uninterrupted line of settlements planned along Road No. 6 in the Inner Plains ridges is designed to create a buffer between the Arab population residing on both sides of what was once termed the Green Line. The construction and housing minister was addressing the annual convention of auditors. Our correspondent Mor Suliman reports:

[Begin recording] [Suliman] Minister Ari'el Sharon today explained the political logic behind the seven-star plan, which speaks of an uninterrupted line of settlements from the north to the south of the Inner Plain, along the old coast road. These settlements are scheduled to be built in the coming years and are to house over 100,000 Jews.

[Sharon] But why did we decide on this line? In order to create a buffer between the Arab population living beyond what was once the Green Line and the Arab population which has Israeli nationality, to break the pattern of uniform towns [as heard].

[Suliman] As a rule, Minister Sharon opined that the mass immigration presents a chance to fundamentally change the demography. According to him, political goals and immigration needs should be combined in the settlement of immigrants. One of the areas where this should be done is the Galilee, where the Arabs are expected to demand autonomy one of these days, in his words. Therefore, it is vital to direct as many immigrants as possible to the north. The same applies to the Green Line, which will serve as a buffer between the Arabs of Judea and Samaria and the Israeli Arabs. [end recording]

More Details on 'Seven Star' Plan

TA0412101390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
4 Dec 90 p A5

[Report by Judy Maltz and ITIM]

[Excerpt] Speaking at the annual convention of the Association of Certified Public Accountants, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday declared that another 10,000 Jews at least will soon settle in the Wadi 'Ara region. "We are about to effect a fundamental change in the demographic balance in the Galilee. The question is not just the number of Jews as opposed to the number of Arabs, but control over the area," Sharon said. According to him, work is already under way to expand the road to Wadi 'Ara in anticipation of the population growth.

Sharon added that half of the 12 new population centers in the framework of the "Seven Star Plan" will be established along the Green Line in the Galilee and the Negev. Fifty percent of the new immigrants will be directed to those areas, while another 50 percent will be directed to Jerusalem and the coastal plain between Haifa and Ashdod. "Israel will have a new map," Sharon said.

On Sunday, the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah approved a settlement plan which provides for housing solutions for 200,000 people and for the paving of the "Trans-Israel Highway" along the Green Line. This will be a toll highway, similar to those in the United States, and will run from Beersheba to Ma'alot.

Minister Sharon added that 7,000 dunam will be added to Nahariyya's municipal jurisdiction, which will double or even treble its population. Furthermore, land is ready for the construction of another 40,000 housing units in Bet Shemesh, and the building of the town of Modi'in will start on 1 March. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 4 December adds: "The government has never and will never commit itself not to settle Jews in united Jerusalem, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon stated today. He went on to say that 50 percent of the construction work being planned will be carried out in northern Israel and the Negev and the rest in the coastal plan and in Jerusalem."]

Arens Says Government Does Not Favor Deportation

TA0312141590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1330 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The Cabinet has not discussed, nor does it plan to discuss, the deportation of Arabs from the territories. The defense establishment is considering resorting again to the closure of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. These remarks were made by Defense Minister Moshe Arens immediately after the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting today. Our correspondent Yaron Toren heard Minister Arens:

[Begin Arens recording] First of all, this government does not espouse the deportation of Arabs from the area, and I am sure that you understand such an issue was never brought before the cabinet and never will be. The closure we imposed several weeks ago may be reimposed under certain circumstances, but it should not be regarded as a panacea. We have seen that a considerable part of the Judea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip population makes a living in the Israeli economy, and we must see to their sustenance as well as to our security. [end recording]

Police Heighten Internal Security Measures

TA0312181490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] All Israeli policemen will carry personal weapons from now on and the possibility of permitting drivers of

public transportation to carry arms will be studied, the police command decided today in a special meeting aimed at finding ways to increase internal security and to overcome the wave of attacks inside the Green Line.

Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the number of roadblocks will be increased. All residents of the territories wishing to enter Israel will undergo body searches and their cars will also be searched. An officer will be stationed at each roadblock, which will also be set up on intercity roads and not just at the entrance to towns. Police will carry out spontaneous searches on buses.

Tel Aviv police took extra precautions this morning in carrying out searches of inhabitants of the territories on their way to the city. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that vehicles were searched thoroughly and body searches were performed on everybody. The roadblocks will remain in force until 1000 each morning.

'Two Terrorist Squads' Uncovered in Ramallah Area

*TA0312192890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Excerpts] Security forces uncovered two terrorist squads in the Ramallah area, one belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the other to the Islamic Jihad. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Hamas terrorists are suspected of carrying out many

attacks, including the planting of explosives on the Tel Aviv beachfront some four months ago. Marnie Kimelmann of Canada was killed and 14 others were wounded in the blast.

The Islamic Jihad cell was uncovered at the al-Jalazun refugee camp. It was operated from Jordan by activists led by Shaykh al-Tamimi. Its members are suspected of trying to kidnap an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier near the Bet El Junction some three weeks ago, as well as other actions. The terrorists fired at the soldier and wounded him, but he returned fire and they fled. [passage omitted]

A resident of Alfey Menashe was slightly hurt near Qalqilyah when his car was stoned. He was treated at Me'ir Hospital and was sent home.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT 3 December adds that "it was disclosed tonight that shots were fired at a military vehicle in the Hebron area yesterday. No one was injured." The report said that "the terrorist killed by police in yesterday's attack on a bus had served a sentence of a few months in Megiddo jail for intifadah-related activities. In violence in the territories today, soldiers shot and wounded an 18-year-old Bayt Fajjar resident as he was trying to throw stones at vehicles. He was wounded in the leg and arrested. In Gaza, a soldier was slightly injured when hit by a stone."]

Yemeni Vice President Arrives for Consultations

*JN0312183090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Excerpts] Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a working visit to Jordan. During the visit he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials on the intensive efforts undertaken by the two fraternal countries to contain the Gulf crisis and find a peaceful solution to it. [passage omitted]

The vice president is accompanied by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In an arrival statement, Mr. al-Bid spoke with reporters.

[Begin al-Bid recording] First of all, I am happy to visit this fraternal country. As for the circumstances under which I am visiting Jordan, the entire Arab nation is experiencing an atmosphere of unrest and tension as a result of the very complex developments of the crisis in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

Given this atmosphere, our visit to Jordan is part of efforts by many Arab and other countries to find an outlet for a peaceful solution. We will meet with the leadership of Jordan, particularly His Majesty King Husayn, since he is one of the people most concerned with peaceful solutions, and who has not hesitated for a moment since the beginning of the crisis to extend his good offices and efforts and travel to more than one country in search of a solution.

Our visit to Jordan is to exchange views and join efforts so as to deal with this situation which is very tense, especially after the Security Council adopted the regrettable war resolution. We feel that we are duty-bound as Arabs to consult with our brothers in Jordan, Baghdad, and other Arab countries to collectively make more Arab efforts and endeavors so as to find a political, peaceful solution in which the Arabs take the initiative.

The visit comes after we heard the good news concerning President Bush's announcement on his willingness to start a dialogue with Baghdad and Baghdad's positive response. We think we all should cooperate to advance these dialogues and help create appropriate circumstances to find solutions, God willing, and an outlet for the situation that threatens everyone in the region with a disaster. We hope that the disaster will not take place, and that all good people in all Arab countries and other peace-loving countries will make efforts to arrive at the means that will spare us a disaster. We do not need disasters since we have suffered enough. [end recording]

Confers With King Husayn

*JN0312205290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Yemeni Vice Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid held a meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening.

They made a comprehensive review of the Gulf crisis, especially the recent developments. They also exchanged views on ways of finding a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis. They also stressed the need to extend Arab and international efforts to reach a peaceful settlement. They then reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting them.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the information minister. It was attended on the Yemeni sides by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

King, Al-Bid Leave for Baghdad

*JN0412130290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1210 GMT 4 Dec 90*

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan's monarch King Husayn has left for Baghdad on a short working visit, during which time he will hold talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. This is the first meeting they have had for three months, and is after U.S. President George Bush announced Washington's readiness to open a dialogue with Baghdad.

Leaving with King Husayn, who is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, were Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, who held talks with the Jordanian monarch in Amman yesterday on the Gulf crisis.

A highly-placed source told our radio that Jordan believes that an inter-Arab dialogue should begin with the parties directly concerned with the Gulf crisis in order to protect Arab interests. The source added that such a dialogue should be held as soon as possible between Iraq on the one hand, and Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on the other.

Informed sources considered Algeria as a suitable state to host a meeting among the leaders of these states at a later stage, proceeding from its position that is not hostile to either party and because it has not dispatched forces to the Gulf.

In another development, and within the framework of efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere, Jordan desires to improve its relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which have deteriorated since the eruption of the Gulf crisis and led to several Saudi measures against Jordan. This prompted Amman to withdraw its ambassador from Riyadh. Some circles did not rule out that Amman would decide to return its ambassador in order to improve these relations.

Kuwaiti Popular Delegation Continues Visit**Meet Senate, House Leaders**

*JN0312183690 Amman Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad al-Lawzi said during a meeting today with the Kuwaiti popular delegation that foreign aggression on any part of the Arab world would be an aggression on the entire Arab nation. He said the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf region will not help Arab causes.

The delegation members and several senators later discussed the presence of foreign forces and ways of restoring Arab solidarity. The Kuwaiti delegation, which began a visit to Jordan yesterday, includes journalists, writers, and former cabinet ministers.

The delegation later met with the deputies and the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

Meet With King

*JN0312184290 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this afternoon received at the Royal Hashemite Court the Kuwaiti popular delegation, which is touring a number of Arab capitals. His majesty explained the efforts made by Jordan before the start of the Gulf crisis, and also the efforts that continued after the breakout of the crisis in order to reach a political settlement within an Arab framework, and to prevent any escalation that would complicate the situation and open the door to foreign interference.

His majesty asserted that he is optimistic about the political settlement and about the Arabs' ability to contain all their differences in the interest of the nation and its future generations.

The delegation then explained to His Majesty King Husayn the aim of its tour, stressing that the Kuwaiti people have confidence in his majesty's honest efforts based on his concern for the nation's fate and future. The Kuwaiti popular delegation also praised these efforts, pointing out that there is a kind of misunderstanding regarding Jordan and its position on the Gulf crisis. It also affirmed that the Kuwaiti people and most of their officials are not responsible for the misunderstanding.

The Kuwaiti popular delegation also stressed the Kuwaitis' rejection of any military solution, which will be a true disaster for Iraq, Kuwait, and the entire Arab homeland. The delegation then affirmed to his majesty the king that the Kuwaiti people are pinning their hopes on Jordan as a result of its position, whose soundness and credibility were proved by events despite Jordan's sufferings as a result of the Gulf crisis.

The meeting was attended by Crown Prince Hasan, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman.

Writer Welcomes Delegation

*JN0312195090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
3 Dec 90 pp 3, 15*

[By Dr. Muhammad 'Ali al-Farra: "Kuwaitis Worthy of Respect and Appreciation"]

[Text] A Kuwaiti delegation made up of important figures, for whom the various Kuwaiti and Arab circles hold all respect and appreciation, has been visiting Jordan since the beginning of this week. The delegation will meet with His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, some Jordanian officials, and key Jordanian figures with good standing in the Jordanian society.

The noble visit indicates, if anything, that the Kuwaiti brothers realize Jordan's importance in political Arab moves thanks to its geographic location, strategic dimension, and human resources which enjoy political awareness and a pan-Arab understanding of Arab and world issues. Above all, the Kuwaiti brothers appreciate the wise political leadership in Jordan, headed by His Majesty King Husayn, who sensed the seriousness of the situation and its regional and international implications before the other Arab leaders, and who, through his deep insight, realized that the crisis must be solved before its threat to the Arab nation heightens. He therefore acted immediately to resolve the crisis within its Arab framework before things jumped out of Arab hand into the hands of the big powers, which take advantage of Arab differences to achieve their own interests in the region, and which may seek to create further differences and deepen them.

We are fully confident that the Kuwaiti brothers will find in Jordan all hospitality and welcome, and will find an understanding of their views. Jordan will not forget Kuwait's noble positions toward all Arab issues, especially the Palestine question. Despite its small area and population, Kuwait played an active role and made efficient contributions at both Arab and world levels, surpassing other sisterly countries with larger areas and populations.

As we welcome our Kuwaiti brothers we do not forget that Kuwait opened its heart to the Palestinian Arabs when they were forced to take leave of their country in the wake of the Israeli invasion. The Jordanian-Palestinian community in Kuwait was the oldest in that country, and it earnestly dedicated itself to help build the development of modern Kuwait in its architectural, educational, and economic manifestations.

And while we open our hearts today to the Kuwaiti brothers, we will not forget the Kuwaiti press, which was an open forum for all the Arabs. The Kuwaiti papers,

especially AL-QABAS, AL-WATAN, and AL-ANBA' adopted and defended all Arab issues, with the Palestine question being in the lead. We do not exaggerate when we say that the Kuwaiti newspapers were the most eager among Arab press to follow and highlight the Palestinian intifadah, explaining, analyzing, and evaluating the events of the intifadah and citing world press reports about it. It had correspondents in the occupied territories, providing it with accurate and confirmed reports. Thus, the Kuwaiti press broke the monopoly of the international press, which does not observe the standards of journalistic honesty and accuracy.

In this respect, we recall with appreciation the editorials of the delegation member Muhammad Jasim al-Saqr, chief editor of AL-QABAS, whose words were full of true Arabism. We do not forget the articles of Dr. Ahmad al-Rab'i, which honestly mirrored his belief in his Arab nation and its genuineness. And above all, the newspaper AL-WATAN, represented by its founder Muhammad Musa'id al-Salih, deserves every love and appreciation, especially his "Good Day" column.

Undoubtedly, the Arab and Islamic worlds will not forget the charity campaigns that the Kuwaiti popular organizations used to organize whenever any Arab or Islamic country faced a problem or a crisis. On the land of Kuwait, the International Islamic Organization was established. It helped Muslims throughout the world, especially in Asia and Africa.

We do not forget the charity convoys that left Kuwait to relieve the refugees, back up the steadfastness of the occupied territories, and support the strugglers and the stone-throwing children in Palestine.

We extend our sincere greetings to the Kuwaiti delegation and its chairman Ahmad al-Saqqaf, the man of letters who founded AL-'ARABI magazine, the mouthpiece of the Arabs and their cultural ambassador to the world. Greetings to brother Sa'ud al-'Usaymi for his known sincere Arab positions, and also to all the noble brother members of the delegation. They are welcome to their second country, and we pray that God will help us all overcome this crisis so that understanding and clear air returns to the sons of the Arab nation.

Visit Underscores Gap in Views

JN0412075290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
4 Dec 90 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—A Kuwaiti bid—the first of its kind since the eruption of the Gulf crisis—to win over Jordanian public opinion has underscored the Gulf between the Jordanian popular attitude and the Kuwaiti approach to the problem.

Several meetings between an unofficial Kuwaiti delegation, which arrived here Saturday, and Jordanians indicate that there are important differences in priorities and perceptions between the two.

From the Kuwaiti point of view, an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is the key to a solution and an objective in itself. For the majority of Jordanian groups, however, an acceptable settlement should also—in addition to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait—guarantee Iraqi security and Arab sovereignty and independence from what is viewed as "American hegemony."

Many Jordanians who met with the Kuwaiti delegation expressed support for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. But they strongly resented the delegation's call for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal and Kuwait's failure to condemn outright the U.S.-led military buildup in the Gulf.

When pressed by Jordanian politicians and journalists, members of the delegation, who include former ministers as well as opposition leaders, rejected the foreign military presence in the Gulf but blamed Iraq for triggering the U.S.-led mobilisation.

As was evident during a two-hour debate, organised by the World Council Affairs Sunday evening, the Kuwaiti appeal for Jordanians to press Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait to avert a catastrophe in the region did not find much response.

"Arabs should ask Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait for the sake of the Iraqi army and to avoid a disaster in the region," was the Kuwaiti message repeated by the members of the delegation.

"We cannot press for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. An unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait will jeopardise Iraq's and Jordan's security," countered Mahmud al-Sharif, editor-in-chief of Al-Dustur newspaper.

Political commentator Hamadaeh Fara'inah challenged the delegation to explicitly condemn the Kuwaiti and Saudi invitation of foreign troops to liberate Kuwait and to distance themselves from the pro-U.S. policies endorsed by the Al-Sabah family.

Although the delegation included some prominent opposition Kuwaiti figures, the opposition—despite its criticism of the regime—rallied behind the emir against the Iraqi occupation.

At a meeting in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, last month, the opposition pressured the emir to agree to democratic reforms in Kuwait—after its restoration—as one precondition to bury their differences and unite in their current struggle against Iraq.

Up until the Iraqi takeover, the Kuwaiti opposition enjoyed broad respect in Jordan and maintained friendly and close ties with Jordanian political groups.

When Kuwait started its experimentation with democracy in 1976 many Jordanians turned their eyes to Kuwait as a possible model to be emulated in the region. Many Jordanians were shocked and pained when in 1985 the emir ended the democratisation process by

dissolving the parliament and imposing restrictions on the freedom of the press. The Kuwaiti government then cited fears of sabotage as a result of the tension in the Gulf emanating from the Iraq-Iran war.

But after the eruption of the Gulf crisis, ties between the Kuwaiti opposition and Jordanian political groups were reduced to a minimum.

Some activists, including former Ba'thists and Communists, were also critical of Saddam for not seeking talks with the Kuwaiti opposition.

"I am certainly against the Kuwaiti emir. But the Iraqis are ignoring the Kuwaiti people and the popular movement in Kuwait," Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin, leader of the Jordanian Communist Party, said immediately after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

After the Iraqi annexation of the emirate some Jordanian politicians had also felt, but few said it, that Iraq might have committed a mistake by ignoring the Kuwaiti opposition. "By annexing Kuwait Iraq had negated the identity and the existence of the Kuwaiti opposition," Dr. Jamal al-Sha'ir, a former Ba'thist said at the time.

Some political activists here were even hoping that the Kuwaiti opposition will provide an alternative for the emiri regime as one way for ending what is viewed here as the Al-Sabah family's subservience to the West and as an important option to convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Most Jordanian politicians, however, were very disappointed in what they viewed as the Kuwaiti opposition's practical endorsement of the idea of seeking American help to solve the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

The Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA)—a broad coalition of leftists, independents and nationalists—refused to meet with or hold a dialogue with the Kuwaiti delegation unless it condemned outright the foreign military presence in the region.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which had initially condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but later focused its campaign against the Western military build-up in the Gulf, has met with the delegation.

In general, the Brotherhood, the most influential group in Jordan, has not completely severed ties with the Gulf states. Last September a Brotherhood delegation visited Saudi Arabia but later reiterated its condemnation of the Western presence in the Gulf.

But Jordanian officials and some political analysts maintain that dialogue should be encouraged despite the evident differences between the Jordanian public opinion and the Kuwaiti approach.

"The Kuwaiti move (to send a delegation here) came a little bit late, but interaction and exchange of views might be essential to find a basis for a solution and for

the future of inter-Arab relations," said one politician who attended Sunday's meeting.

'News Analysis' Views Visit

JN0212091990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
2 Dec 90 pp 1, 17

["News analysis" by the Arab affairs editor: "Arab Countries Should Take the Initiative on Mediation After Washington Changed its Position"]

[Text] If the United States has finally accepted the principle of negotiation with Iraq, then other countries and parties who allied themselves with Washington should also consider changing their tone and conduct and giving peace a chance.

This political understanding observed by SAWT AL-SHA'B yesterday, as expressed by numerous local and Arab parties and various European political quarters that pledged to expand channels of dialogue with Iraq, will be transformed, as expected, into a basis for broad dialogue in the region, in both the pro- and anti-Iraq countries.

The starting point of discussion is the real need to talk hardline Arab countries into abandoning their old positions, subscribing to the principle of dialogue, and expressing their goodwill by lifting the blockade, which is justified neither from the legal nor the pan-Arab perspective. After that, they can explore all avenues that would guarantee, in the end, returning the solution to an Arab context, whereby Security Council resolutions or any international arrangements would be the proper sponsorship for a right that should return to the Arab context.

Quarters that have been following the latest developments out of their concern for the triumph of dialogue believe that the Kuwaiti popular delegation now touring the region bears a responsibility surpassing that of any other party to reach a real solution, proceeding from the door of dialogue that has been opened this week.

For, instead of confining the role of mediation to the United States and Europe, the Kuwaiti popular delegation itself can assume this role. This, as perceived by these quarters, cannot be achieved except through a rapid, clear-cut process of sorting out positions—the positions of the Kuwaiti popular delegation and other inflexible parties in the Gulf. This is because, following the change in the U.S. position, any flexibility on the part of the Kuwaiti popular delegation will greatly improve the overall situation and will effect a qualitative shift in the general context of the crisis.

Sources add that the Kuwaiti popular delegation is now almost in full control of the matter on account of the program calling for change inside Kuwait that it has advocated over the past years. If the delegation manages to establish a concrete margin separating it from the U.S. position and other inflexible Gulf positions and opens

dialogue with Iraq, it would, according to political estimates, seize the initiative from U.S. hands and return it to an Arab context, which guarantees a just national solution in the end.

Columnist Counsels Delegation

JN0112174690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
1 Dec 90 pp 24, 28

["Seven Days" column by Ahmad Salamah: "Welcome, O People of Kuwait"]

[Excerpts] Kuwaitis are most welcome to visit without the requirement of visas, since for all the wounds, Jordan will, as ever, be your country. We will be honored to welcome a Kuwaiti delegation of journalists, legislators, businessmen, and cabinet ministers. Long overdue as it is, the visit should provide a historic opportunity for us to listen to each other as the specter of death hovers over our heads. [passage omitted]

We should bear in mind that your grandfathers had to move from the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula to Kuwait on account of a severe drought.

Dear friends: Just as language is bequeathed, so is poverty. Just as your grandfathers taught you the story about diving into the sea in search of a livelihood besides whatever the bleak desert had to offer, you must also remember the reason why you had to go out to Kuwait, and that is "poverty".

With the discovery of oil, you became the gentlemen of the Arabs. However, when you set out from the Peninsula, it could never have occurred to you that you would strike oil. In a manner of speaking, it was oil that intruded into your seclusion.

Dear friends: Perhaps no one understands what you want better than we in Jordan. You want to say that your country is occupied and your legitimate government homeless, and that what you call the conquerer must pull out.

You say that you want your Kuwait back—by hook or by crook. For our part, we have this to say to you: What is your homeland worth if the Iraqi soldier is replaced by an American or even an Israeli one?!

What happened on 2 August concerns the whole of the Arab nation no less than it concerns you or the Iraqis, and so the distance separating us is academic.

Brothers in Kuwait: The policies you pursued showed you had the best grasp of what neutrality was about; you led the way in opening up to the Soviet Union and you took Iraq's side in its fierce war with Iraq—to mention but two examples.

Truth be told, American protection will not make you the kind of Kuwaitis you aspire to be. Baghdad is not closed to you. What transpired between you and Baghdad cannot be mentioned in the same breath as the bloody European wars—witness the Europeans building a united continent.

In the interest of the Kuwait we love, may I suggest that you call on King Husayn, the chief of all the Arabs, and say to him: "We want a solution." Free from rancor and preconceptions, a solution sponsored by King Husayn will inevitably be disinterested, honest, and Arab.

Dear Kuwaitis: War will not be as harmful to the poor as it is to the rich. And don't you believe that the world is on your side. The world is on the side of the United States and its interests. Even allowing for differences between the two cases, how else can you explain such an international consensus against the occupation of Kuwait that we have not seen regarding the question of Palestine? [passage omitted]

Dear friends: You are most welcome guests in Amman, the throbbing heart of the Arabs.

U.S. Ambassador Criticized for Visit to Irbid

JN0412093890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Dec 90 p 20

["The Last Post" column by Mu'nis al-Razzaz: "The U.S. Ambassador and Irbid Municipality"]

[Text] The information I received a few days ago about the U.S. ambassador's visit to the offices of the Irbid Municipality a few weeks ago is very interesting. I would have liked to write about it earlier, but the dangerous developments that confronted us regarding the Gulf crisis made me put off writing on this topic.

The important thing is that, according to reports, the U.S. ambassador visited the Irbid municipality a month ago. He attended a meeting with Mayor Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat; Engineer 'Isam Hatamleh, member of the municipal council; and Munir Haddad, head of planning in the municipality. Before I review the position by the mayor and his colleagues, which is an honorable position that expresses the opinion of the Jordanian public, I would like to ask a naive question because of my ignorance of diplomatic protocol. I wonder, does a foreign ambassador have the right to visit a Jordanian mayor without the permission of our Foreign Ministry? And then, why is the U.S. ambassador visiting the municipality offices to begin with?

In conclusion, the information I have received indicates that the mayor drew the attention of the ambassador to the fact that he is a mayor and does not represent the official side. However, since he represents 200,000 citizens, he would frankly express the people's opinion on U.S. policy.

Dr. Tubayshat conveyed the opinion of the people in Jordan on U.S. policy to the ambassador with all honesty, courage, and loyalty.

What is strange about the dialogue between the two is that the U.S. ambassador tried to incite the mayor and his colleagues against Iraq by asking them the reason for the Islamic current's support for Iraq despite the fact that the decisionmakers in Iraq embrace secularism.

I wonder what business the U.S. ambassador has to ask such a question. I was quite pleased with the response from the mayor and his colleagues. They replied that the Islamists and pan-Arabs agree on the principle of jihad against the arch satan and arrogance in the name of the meek of the earth. They explained to him the relationship between Arabism and Islam.

Irrespective of this honorable stand by the mayor and his two colleagues, we wonder whether diplomatic norms allow any ambassador to visit a Jordanian institution such as the municipality without prior permission of the Foreign Ministry and without giving convincing reasons for doing so.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Arrives for Talks 2 Dec

JN0312112990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] SAWT AL-SHA'B—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee, arrived in Amman yesterday on a visit to Jordan. He will meet with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and other Jordanian officials.

'Abbas will discuss the latest political developments in the Gulf crisis and ways to support the popular Palestinian intifadah.

King Meets Nicaragua's Ortega, Discusses Crisis

JN0312203590 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received today at the Royal Hashemite Court former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. They reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the results of Ortega's visit to several nonaligned countries to promote efforts for a political settlement to the crisis.

Economic Delegation Returns From USSR

JN0212115790 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Amman, 28 Nov (PETRA)—The economic delegation led by Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Industry and Trade Ministry, has returned to Amman after an official visit to the USSR that lasted one week. During the visit, the delegation held talks with Soviet officials and businessmen on ways to develop cooperation and trade between the two countries.

In a statement to PETRA, Dr. Badran said that the delegation met with the concerned experts in the Soviet Ministries of Economic Cooperation, Petroleum, Gas, and External Economic Relations, in addition to a number of the presidents of Soviet trade and industry establishments to discuss ways to reinforce economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

UK's Tony Benn Briefs King on Baghdad Visit

JN2911140090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the al-Nadwah Palace this morning Mr. Tony Benn, member of the British House of Commons, who briefed his majesty on the outcome of his visit to Baghdad, which comes within Mr. Benn's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Legislators Denounce Security Council Resolution

JN0212202690 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Excerpts] In its session today, the House of Representatives discussed a number of draft laws and several local and foreign issues. More details in the following report by our parliamentary affairs correspondent Muhammad al-Tarawinah.

[Al-Tarawinah] After listening to the state budget statement, the House began discussing items on its agenda. [passage omitted] Deputy Bassam Haddadin, speaking for the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance [JANDA], posed a host of questions:

[Begin Haddadin recording] We in JANDA call upon our colleagues in the esteemed House to denounce Security Council Resolution 678, which authorizes the use of force to attack fraternal Iraq, and to denounce the conspiratorial position against the Arab nation. [end recording]

[Al-Tarawinah] Deputy Salamah al-Ghuwayri delivered a statement in the name of the National Bloc. He expressed support for the positions of fraternal Iraq and said the Bloc still relives that the chance for war is stronger than that of peace. The statement also called for adopting further measures.

[Begin Al-Ghuwayri recording] According to this, the Jordanian Government should take every necessary measure to maintain Jordan's security and soil, bearing in mind that the chances of war are still stronger than the chances of peace, and that the U.S. President's initiative is perhaps aimed at paving the way for war and throwing dust in people's eyes. Hence, we support the JANDA proposal denouncing Security Council Resolution 678. I hope that the efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn from the beginning will succeed in achieving peace in the region. [passage omitted][end recording]

[Al-Tarawinah] Afterward, Prime Minister Mudar Badran responded to remarks and questions, and said that we are living the tragedy of the Gazans and trying to alleviate their suffering. He called on the Arab nation to bear its responsibility toward them.

[Begin Badran recording] We are living the tragedy of the sons of Gaza with deep pain. The Gaza camp [in Jordan] is still there, and we have repeatedly tried to lessen their

pains. But we cannot solve all their problems, especially since this is the responsibility of certain Arab countries. All the Gazans who left for the Gulf states bear Egyptian-Palestinian travel documents. These people came here with the evacuees [from Kuwait and Iraq], and before they were allowed in, they made the necessary undertakings that they will be transiting to Egypt, not staying here. They have lived all their life in Gaza, and they hold Palestinian travel documents issued from Egypt. Do you want Jordan alone to solve all their problems? Absolutely not.

I would like to speak frankly on this subject. We might find ourselves one day without drinking water because of the many refugees here. I am sounding the alarm concerning drinking water; yes, drinking water. The Arab nation is called upon to bear its responsibility. It is not the responsibility of Jordan alone to handle this tragedy. Honestly, Jordan cannot. It has limited capabilities and resources, certain agricultural lands, and certain water resources; everything is limited. This is a poor country, with meager natural resources. We are therefore trying to strike some kind of balance. We try, but this government or any other government should not be asked to end all this tragedy by itself. [end recording]

[Al-Tarawinah] At the end of the session, House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat decided to call the House into session at 1700 Wednesday to discuss items on the agenda.

TANJUG Interviews Foreign Minister Al-Qasim

LD0312193890 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1844 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Amman, Dec 3 (TANJUG)—Jordanian Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim says in an exclusive interview to the Yugoslav news agency TANJUG that Jordan is launching an urgent Arab initiative for dealing with the Gulf crisis.

The drive should start with a mini summit of the three Arab countries at conflict—Iraq on one side and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the other.

Marwan al-Qasim says that the summit should reach a "common solution in principle" to the Gulf crisis, and the action should then be joined by the other Arab countries.

The initiative being launched by Jordan, a country which is a close friend of Iraq, should help reach a solution to the Gulf crisis within inter-Arab frameworks and prevent a war.

In his interview to TANJUG's special correspondent in Amman, Dejan Lukic, the Jordanian foreign minister says he believes that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn would agree to withdraw troops from Kuwait if he should, in return, receive a "concession of use to the whole Arab nation".

Marwan al-Qasim underlines that Saddam will not agree to any concession "under threat and ultimatums".

Saying that the scheduled U.S.-Iraqi top-level dialogue might lead to peace in the Gulf, the Jordanian foreign minister recalls that dialogue has already resulted in resolving one of three crucial problems in the conflict—release of foreign hostages being held by Iraq.

In his interview to TANJUG, Marwan al-Qasim assesses that the non-aligned countries' action in the Gulf crisis has "come late". He believes that the movement has failed to make a "sufficiently speedy and thorough" assessment of the crisis and has remained on the fringes of developments.

Writer Argues Democracy in Iraq, Region

JN0212094890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
1 Dec 90 p 4

["The Arguments for and Against Democracy in the Middle East and Even in Iraq" by Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] The Gulf crisis has intensified the debate on political freedoms in the Arab world. Jordan Times Staff Reporter Lamis K. Andoni talked to analysts and political activists in Amman and Baghdad who argue that the struggle for Arab independence and unity in the current crisis should not be waged at the expense of democratisation in the Arab World, including in Iraq.

In its quest to mobilize public opinion against Iraq, the U.S. has often cited the state of political freedoms in the country to justify tough political, economic and even military steps against Baghdad. The American tactic has prompted many Arab intellectuals to resent any criticism, at this stage, of the Iraqi political system.

But there are indications that inside and outside Iraq there is an emerging trend to argue that liberalisation of the system—to an extent allowed by the state of war and siege that the country is under—could be crucial to the result of the current confrontation with the West.

Advocates of this line of thinking, however, stress that the struggle to counter the international blockade against Iraq and to avert a military action should be given priority. A number of intellectuals interviewed in Iraq—and in Jordan—argue that the nationalist struggle should no longer justify repression.

"In the history of the Arab and Third World, repression was often justified by one national cause or another. This argument has proved to be wrong in many cases but we have not learned," said an Iraqi novelist.

He, as well as other Iraqi, Jordanian and Palestinian intellectuals, argue that in the case of the Arab World absence of democracy has contributed to deepening subservience of the Arab order to the West. An example often cited in Iraq and Jordan is the experience of the late Egyptian president, Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir.

Like Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Nasir challenged Western interests in the Arab World emerging as a nationalist hero. Both 'Abd-al-Nasir and now Saddam incurred Western wrath that amounted to calls, if not attempts, for their physical elimination.

But now some historians and writers believe that Nasir's Achilles' heel, despite his tremendous popular appeal, was his failure to recognize the role of political freedoms and pluralism in consolidating the revolutionary nationalist base in Egypt.

"We used to demonstrate in favour of 'Abd-al-Nasir in this street," said an Iraqi artist in his mid-fifties on al-Rashid street, in downtown Baghdad. "We supported his nationalist struggle but we were oblivious to repression in Egypt."

According to this argument, repeated by some political activists in Jordan, repression in Egypt eventually backlashed against Nasir's nationalist slogans and ideals giving the way for the emergence and dominance of President Anwar al-Sadat's pro U.S. policies.

The collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe and the surfacing of rightist and even racist trends and movements are also cited as yet another example of setbacks suffered by egalitarian principles as a reaction to long years of repression.

Many staunch supporters of Iraq, however, reject these arguments by countering that such a debate would only serve the American campaign.

"No voice should be louder than that of the nationalist battle," is the current slogan raised in Jordan and elsewhere in defence of the Iraqi government.

When asked, Iraqi officials do not dispute the need for liberalisation but imply that the process is not possible at this stage. Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, Sa'di Mahdi Salih, told the Jordan Times in an interview that the Gulf crisis has interrupted a liberalisation process in Iraq.

He was referring to a new constitution which involves presidential elections and allows for political pluralism in Iraq.

Some Iraqis interviewed were very skeptical that the government was ready to allow a genuine liberalisation of the system. Others, including some critics of President Saddam, believe that the current crisis has unleashed popular demands for political freedoms across the Arab world and Iraq is no exception.

"The fast developments and the massive military build-up in the Gulf have intensified popular resentment of Arab regimes which do not allow for wider political participation; people want to take part in determining the destiny of the region," said the Iraqi novelist, who asked to remain anonymous.

Even in the highest echelons of the Ba'thist Party structure, officials and thinkers are now underscoring the essential role of democracy in the nationalist struggle.

"The dangers threatening the Arab World, as crucial as they are, should not justify the sacrifice of democracy," said Dr Iliyas Farah, a Syrian-born member of the Ba'thist Party National Command.

In an interview with the Jordan Times in Baghdad, the Swiss educated philosopher said, however, that the process towards democracy in the Third world is often interrupted by Western intervention or other challenges.

But as the Iraqi people are expected to endure a continuing international blockade, if not war, there are activists and intellectuals in Amman and in Baghdad who argue that an easing up on restrictions of political expression will consolidate the domestic front.

Muhammad al-'Amayirah, a Jordanian columnist and a cofounder of the newly established Arab Progressive Democratic Party (APDP), expressed concerns among Arab nationalists in Jordan that the absence of democratic freedoms in Iraq could undermine its position in the current confrontation.

"We do not want the new Arab renaissance project led by Iraq to suffer a setback as a result of the lack of political freedoms in the country," said al-'Amayirah, who stressed that the struggle for democracy in Jordan or any Arab state is inseparable from the struggle for democracy in the Arab World in general.

Jordanian novelist Mu'nis al-Razzaz went further by publicly calling last week, in an article that appeared in al-Dustur Arabic daily, on Saddam to free political prisoners and rehabilitate his political opponents who were executed or stripped of their positions in the Iraqi government and Ba'thist party.

Al-Razzaz, who supports Iraq in its current confrontation with the West, was criticised by other writers who felt that by raising the question of political freedoms in Iraq he could be playing into the hands of the West.

In Amman, concern that Iraq could be attacked and even destroyed overshadows criticism of the repressive nature of the Iraqi system. "What is the use of demanding political freedoms in Iraq when the whole country is threatened with being wiped out?" asked a Jordanian activist who has always been critical of the Iraqi regime's internal policies.

In Baghdad, however, one is struck by the bitterness displayed by some Iraqis who expressed resentment of what they viewed as Arab intellectuals' and activists' insensitivity to the state of political freedoms in Iraq.

"You are perpetuating the personality cult here," the Iraqi novelist said. "Why don't you emphasise your support for the Iraqi people (in pro-Iraqi demonstrations) instead of exclusively focusing on the leader? Why don't you press for the easing of political restriction in

Iraq?" He asked when watching scenes of a pro-Iraq demonstration on Iraqi television.

This reaction was echoed repeatedly by other Iraqis who claimed that many others felt the same way. Wide-ranging interviews with Iraqis in Baghdad conducted by the Jordan Times did not support this claim, although many expressed curiosity about it, and explicit admiration for the democratisation process in Jordan.

Several Jordanian political activists and intellectuals were rather surprised by the way some Iraqis have understood the mass rallies which have been organised in support of Iraq.

"We support the Iraqi people. But Saddam has become a symbol of the current struggle. Do not forget that the West is focusing on Saddam as a person and a symbol," said one Jordanian political activist.

In Baghdad as in Amman Western claims that the campaign against Iraq aims at defending democracy and freedom is received with scorn.

"The west did not hesitate in supporting Saddam on many occasion in the past," said an artist who is very critical of the Iraqi president. "The U.S. concern for human rights and democracy in the Arab World is a big lie, however. The Americans are trying to dictate to us who should and should not rule this country or the other in accordance with their interests. Is this democracy?"

Arabs Called To Choose 'Victory or Martyrdom'

JN3011121890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
30 Nov 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "It Is The War We Are Awaiting; the War of Bitterness and Revenge"]

[Text] On the world day for solidarity with the Palestinian people, the United States decided to issue its new resolution against the Iraqi people. And on the world day for solidarity with the Palestinian people, the United States insisted on refusing to continue dialogue at the UN Security Council on sending an envoy to Palestine, and concentrated its efforts on passing a resolution that allows half a million troops sent to the Gulf region to prepare for aggression against Iraq.

This is political hypocrisy that disregards all principles and morals. This is the U.S. double-standard policy that refuses to act on the basis of values and charters. Hypocrisy and double standards are the practical expression of U.S. bullying. The United States imagines that it can intimidate and humiliate Iraq and its nation, and that it can place our heads under the U.S. foot.

The new U.S. resolution has been bought and paid for by the insignificant Arabs. It was prepared and paid for out of the Muslims' funds. Washington would not have gone so far in its contempt for the Arab nation and would not have insisted on insulting the Arab nation's land, sanctities, religion, and dignity had it not been for some

Arabs who gave the United States the green light at the Cairo emergency summit, and had it not for the Arabs who sent the "defenders of the homeland,"—who were trained by the nation's efforts, sweat, funds, and suffering to confront the Zionist enemy—to the U.S. trench to invade fraternal Iraq and destroy the great pan-Arab awakening that the Iraqis represent and carry proudly, bravely, and with determination.

We are not astonished by the fact that millions in Arab and Muslim funds have been stolen so that Washington could buy off Khrushchev's Moscow, de Gaulle's Paris, and Mao Zedong's Beijing. When politicians in these capitals are not faithful to their leaders, principles, and independent national decisionmaking, then it is not difficult for them to be unfaithful to us. When these capitals let their necks, dignity, and sovereignty be dragged behind the U.S. wagon, then the Iraqis and the millions of Arabs and Muslims will have no choice but to prepare for the confrontation and to seek victory or martyrdom. Then, they will have no choice but to blow up this region and everything in it; including the interests of big and small enemies, and all those who sold themselves and bought their own disgrace. When matters reach the point where Washington specifies the hour, day, or month of the battle, then we have no choice but to fight, as the soldiers of Prophet Muhammad did at the battles of Badr and al-Khandaq, as the soldiers of Sa'd Bin-Abi-Waqqas did in the al-Qadisiyah battle, as the soldiers of Khalid Bin-al-Walid did in the al-Yarmuk battle, and as Saladin did at Hittin. We must fight, as the righteous martyrs of Algeria, Sanaa, Aden, Port Said, Gaza, and Jerusalem fought against the killers, invaders, and racists.

It is not Saddam's war alone, it is the war of all the millions of Arabs. It is not the war of the Iraqis alone, it is the war of this entire great nation.

It is the war of patient believers who do not change their stands.

It is the war of the many postponed accounts, a war that will leave nobody in the Arab land but its proud sons and their noble aspirations, character, and language. Every inch of this land will be a Baghdad, every area in it will be an Iraq. There will be a sea of blood, enormous destruction, and flames as high as the sky.

When matters become unbearable and insults become intolerable, our demand must be either victory or martyrdom. It is a war of bitterness and revenge. We must reactivate the cry "O Arabs, welcome to death, O winds of heaven blow."

Harassment of Al-'Aqabah-Bound Ships Continues

JN2911131690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
29-30 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A Soviet cargo ship intercepted by French navy vessels in the Straits of Tiran has finally

been allowed to proceed towards al-'Aqabah after intensive contacts involving the Ministry of Transport here and the French and Soviet embassies in Amman, according to shipping sources in al-'Aqabah.

French navy vessels Wednesday had intercepted the ship in the Straits of Tiran and prevented it from proceeding towards the port of al-'Aqabah.

The cargo ship, carrying 1,500 tonnes of soyabean meal for Jordan, was stopped by the French navy whose officers went on board to examine the cargo documents which clearly stated that the goods were destined for Jordan, to the order of Wahbah Tamari and Sons Company.

Despite the available evidence that the goods were intended to be used in Jordan, the French navy ordered the ship to turn back and discontinue the trip, the sources said.

The ship's agents, Tawfiq Gharghur & Sons, received a cable from the ship's captain, Ivan Korobotsov, asking that immediate contacts be made with the French Embassy to clear up the matter and allow the vessel to proceed to al-'Aqabah and discharge cargo without delay.

Following the incident, contacts were reported underway between the Ministry of Transport in Amman and the French and Soviet embassies, but the cargo vessel was still stranded in the open seas late Wednesday awaiting further instructions according to the sources.

The harassment, one in a series over the past three months, came one day after a group, representing the Chamber of Industry, the Chamber of Commerce, the Jordanian National Shipping Lines Company and the Shipping Agents Association reviewed ways to deal with ship harassment operations in the Tiran Straits and the Red Sea.

Shipping Agents Association President Tawfiq Quwar reviewed the situation in the port of al-'Aqabah and said that vessels laden with goods bound for Jordan had been

harassed since Aug. 6 although Jordan had formally declared its abidance by the U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning sanctions against Iraq.

He said that the harassment had not only forced many vessels to divert their course to other ports but had also involved black-listing Jordanian businessmen as dealers with Iraq, preventing their goods from reaching al-'Aqabah.

The association lodged complaints with the International Chamber of Shipping in London and the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce.

Cabinet Approves Budget; Gulf Crisis Impact

*JN0112160690 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 2000 GMT 28 Nov 90*

[Text] The Cabinet last night approved the state budget draft law for 1991. The budget was drafted in the light of the effects of the Gulf crisis on the Jordanian economy.

Finance Minister Basil Jardanah said the Gulf crisis had sharp adverse effects on the Jordanian economy. He said it led to a decline in the gross domestic product and a sharp drop in the country's foreign currency reserves and revenues.

This, he said, increased the country's financial burdens which required reconsidering the economic reform program now being implemented. It also required setting up a new economic framework to cope with recent developments and achieve a balance in the country's finances by the year 1995 instead of 1993 and in the balance of payments.

In a statement to Jordan television, the finance minister said the state budget for 1991 was prepared in light of those facts and would be a budget of 1.192 billion dinars, including 889.2 million dinars for government spending and 230 million dinars for capital spending.

Mr. Jardanah said the new budget also includes a 120-million-dinar emergency budget which would depend on the arrival of additional grants of foreign aid and soft loans.

Further on Greater Beirut Plan Implementation

Hizballah Reportedly Withdraws

NC3011204090 Paris AFP in English 1935 GMT
30 Nov 90

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Nov 30 (AFP)—Members of the pro-Iranian Hizballah Shiite militia on Friday withdrew from the Iqlim al-Tuffah region near this southern port ahead of the Army's deployment there on Monday, eyewitnesses said.

Seventy-five Hizballah fighters left the mountainous area of Iqlim al-Tuffah southeast of here. Earlier this week an initial group of fundamentalist militiamen withdrew from the area to the central al-Biq'a Valley which is under Syrian control.

The rival Syrian-backed Amal movement has announced the withdrawal of 300 combatants from the area since the conclusion of a peace accord in Damascus between the two militias on November 5 to end the internecine fighting that has claimed over 1,500 lives since April 1988.

Lebanese officials said Thursday that the Lebanese Government had set Monday as a new deadline for its Greater Beirut Plan to deploy the regular army in and around a militia-free capital.

The original deadline for Lebanese Army units backed by Syrian troops to be deployed throughout the Beirut region was November 19, but it was set back because of objections from the main Christian militia, the Lebanese Forces.

Shiite Muslim and Druze militias have already announced their withdrawal from the mainly Moslem western sector of Beirut and its southern suburbs.

The government also announced Friday that the Army would be dispatched to the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, from which it has been absent since 1976, on Monday.

Hizballah Reports on Withdrawals

NC0112074690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Efforts and contacts are continuing on various levels to end the crisis between Amal and Hizballah. The Army is expected to begin deploying in Iqlim al-Tuffah on Monday. After a series of meetings by the quadripartite committee, it was agreed that gunmen would be withdrawn from the area so that the Army could be deployed.

The higher quadripartite committee met at the Iranian Embassy. Present at the meeting were the Iranian ambassador to Damascus, His Eminence Shaykh Mohammad Hasan Akhtari; Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Syrian Forces Security and Reconnaissance Department; His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general; Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement; and 'Abd-al-Hadi Hamadah and Ahmad al-Ba'labakki, members of the Amal-Hizballah security committee.

They discussed the details of the withdrawal of gunmen and weapons from Iqlim al-Tuffah and the Army's deployment there on Monday. Sources close to the meeting affirmed that it was positive and that agreement was reached on all the points discussed.

In the same connection, the quadripartite committee's security committee withdrew 75 Hizballah members from the area yesterday. Amal, meanwhile, withdrew some of its heavy weapons from the combat lines. The withdrawal of gunmen will continue over the next two days under the security committee's supervision.

Operational measures connected with the Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah have also begun. The pro-'Arafat Fatah movement is expected to withdraw its fighters and weapons from the area within the next two days. This follows an agreement in this regard between Ministers Nazih al-Bizri and Muhsin Dallul and Palestinian leaders.

Army Deploys in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0212084190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Minister Muhsin Dallul has stressed that we are on the threshold of Greater Beirut and of the army's entry into Iqlim al-Tuffah tomorrow, Monday, without any obstacles.

In an interview with Voice of Lebanon, he said that Greater Beirut is the best gift to the citizens and noted that all the parties are responsive.

Commenting on the Palestinian-Lebanese meeting, Dallul said that the Palestinians have agreed to withdraw from Iqlim al-Tuffah, that they were fully responsive, and that they have expressed readiness to extend all possible help to achieve peace in Lebanon.

He added that the Lebanese-Syrian summit will review many files on Lebanon and the region which are very important and which will be implemented after the Greater Beirut Plan.

Al-Huss Comments

NC0212130390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss by unidentified National News Agency reporter in Beirut on 2 December—read by announcer]

[Text] [Reporter] On the eve of the deadline for the army deployment in the Greater Beirut area, do you have anything to say? Is there anything that might delay the implementation of the plan?

[Al-Huss] The ingredients for the Greater Beirut Plan are complete. The Army is on standby to implement the plan which has won the support of all concerned parties. The cabinet approved the plan and set the zero hour for its implementation in the light of the expressed readiness of

the irregular forces to withdraw from the various areas within the Greater Beirut boundaries. We stick to this date and there is no reason for any delay. Moreover, there is no excuse for anyone not to facilitate the implementation of the plan.

[Reporter] Some media services have reported that to facilitate the implementation of the plan, the Lebanese Forces have demanded that the offices of Bayt al-Mustaqbal and LE REVEIL newspaper be turned over to them. What is the truth?

[Al-Huss] When the cabinet set the zero hour, it took into consideration the grace period demanded by the various parties to complete their withdrawal from the areas under their control. At that time we did not hear of conditions and demands. However, all demands become easy and small for the sake of a great peace plan like Greater Beirut. Moreover, all conditions and demands become meaningless and all excuses become invalid. Greater Beirut is not the end but the beginning of the road to impose the state's authority throughout Lebanon. Whoever has demands can follow-up by legal and legitimate means without making them a reason for impeding a vital project like Greater Beirut.

It is no secret that the State has rights over some parties, rights which it has not collected from them yet. The state has not abandoned or forgotten these rights but has postponed demanding them for the time being in order not to obstruct the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan. So let us all rise to the level of the responsibility which the current phase requires.

I reiterate that the ingredients for the Greater Beirut Plan are complete and the Army is on standby to implement it. The cabinet set the zero hour for implementing the plan. We are determined to implement it and the people support us.

[Reporter] Some quarters claim that the other parties have carried out an artificial or incomplete withdrawal. These quarters take this as an excuse to delay their forces' withdrawal.

[Al-Huss] When this question was submitted to the army command, it had a simple answer. It is that the Army is determined to deploy throughout Greater Beirut according to plan. The Army intends to search arms hideouts and all places suspected of containing weapons or ammunition. If there are certain parties that have not completed their withdrawal as required, the Army is able to expose them and to deal with them quickly.

'Difficulties' Reported

NC0212132190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] AL-DIYAR paper cites prominent government sources as saying that difficulties have surfaced in the past 24 hours over the Lebanese Army's entry into the al-Ashrafiyah area. The difficulties resulted from a condition presented by the Lebanese Forces to the Lebanese Army that

it vacate the buildings housing the Bayt al-Mustaqbal establishment and the LE REVEIL newspaper.

The same sources disclosed that the Army command had sent a memo to the Cabinet about this expressing the determination of the military command in general and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud in particular to carry out the deployment within the specified time limit set by the Cabinet.

Lebanese Forces Convoy Leaves Beirut

NC0212151590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces General Staff Command in Beirut on 2 December]

[Text] The Lebanese Forces continue their withdrawal from Beirut. A convoy consisting of 70 trucks loaded with 420 tons of ammunition of various calibers left the area near the Charle Hilu bridge for Kasrawan at 1350 today. This step was supervised by Major Joseph Rizq, deputy chief of staff for logistics in the Lebanese Forces.

Forces' Weapons Caches Listed

NC0312120490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Security sources have revealed information to our radio regarding the Lebanese Forces' withdrawal from al-Ashrafiyah and its vicinity. They confirmed that the Lebanese Forces have kept a large number of secret weapons caches in the area and have armed a number of their members with assorted weapons.

This information reveals the following:

1. Secret caches are located in Mahallat al-Nab'ah near the Plaza Cinema and in the Anglican school in the same area, on Mar Ilyas Street near the al-Rahib Bakery, in the Hotel Dieu area near the new Voice of Lebanon building, in the al-Ashrafiyah area opposite the Foreign Ministry building, and in the Dib and [word indistinct] center behind the oxygen company.

2. The Lebanese Forces have kept other secret caches in the following buildings: the former Cedars Guards Party building in Karm al-Zaytun; the (Akshinah) building in Tal'at Karm al-Zaytun; the Sna' building in the Sodoco; and in two other buildings, one adjacent to the Alexander Hotel and the other adjacent to the electricity company.

The information also reveals that Rinnu Ni'mah is using his house on Bank al-Rif Street in 'Ayn al-Rummanah as a weapons cache. Antoine Abu-Jawdah, alias Zorro, has asked his followers in al-Ashrafiyah, who total around 200 men, to remain in their houses and keep their personal weapons.

The Lebanese Forces have also brought seven trucks laden with light-caliber weapons, their ammunition, and 60-mm and 80-mm mortars to their Military Council building. They also opened new centers. A center under

the control of Emile Rahmah was opened under the name of the Christian Socialist Party near the S.K.S. barracks. There are approximately 60 gunmen in this center with their personal weapons and RPG's. The center is fortified inside with sandbags. In Mahallat al-Karantinah near the Military Council, a center belonging to the Lebanese Forces' intelligence branch has been opened. There are nine gunmen there under the command of Joseph Hatshiti.

All of these blatant violations of the so-called process of withdrawal from the al-Ashrafiyah area coincide with the Lebanese Forces' dispatch of groups trained in sabotage to the 'Ayn al-Rummanah area. Some of the members of these groups are Toni Abu-Rujaylah, a first lieutenant in the Lebanese Forces; Elie Bisharah; Joseph Shuwayri; Jean Abu-Khalil; Toni Samahah; Raymond B'aqlini; and Joseph Shilalah.

Informed sources have also reported that the Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' has asked his staff to prepare a detailed field plan for staging an uprising against the Army similar to the one on 6 February when the appropriate time for this arrives. The security sources which have received this information warned of security operations that the Lebanese Forces' organs will carry out against the citizens and other military personnel. Their aim is to weaken the Army and to maintain their hegemony and prepare the right conditions for the uprising.

Defense Ministry Statement Issued

NC0312123690 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
1130 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Information Department of the Defense Ministry's Operations Room issued the following statement today: Army units will begin deploying in Greater Beirut from 1400 to 1800 this afternoon following a delay as a result of the completion of the withdrawal of gunmen and arms from Beirut. Therefore, the Army Command asks the citizens to move about only when necessary during this period in order to facilitate the passage of the Army vehicles and to avoid traffic congestion in the areas in which the Army will deploy.

Lebanese Forces Continue Withdrawal

NC0312124990 *(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon*
in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces' withdrawal of weapons from al-Ashrafiyah and its vicinity started at 1100 and ended at 1315 today. The Lebanese Army is scheduled to deploy fully in all the areas included in the Greater Beirut Plan.

The Lebanese Forces' convoys traveled toward Kasrawan and Jubayl from their assembly points in Charles Hilu Avenue, the Shell area, and al-Jisr al-Wati boulevard after vacating their positions in Sinn al-Fil, al-Dawrah, and al-Ashrafiyah. The convoys were comprised of 441 armored and personnel vehicles and 2,000

fighters. Each convoy was led by a tank and a personnel vehicle and was comprised of tanks, personnel carriers, transport vehicles with soldiers and medium caliber weapons; trucks; ambulances; and 130-mm, 155-mm, and 120-mm gun carriers. [passage omitted]

Our Beirut correspondent has reported that the Lebanese Army took over the Lebanese Forces' roadblock at Beirut port at 1030. A company from the 57th Battalion deployed in the Port-Rivoli-Bank of Syria and Lebanon area under the command of Major Habib Abu-Rujaylah. [passage omitted]

Greater Beirut Plan Realized

NC0312144690 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
1400 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The Greater Beirut plan became a reality at 1400 GMT today. The area is now under the control of the Lebanese Army which constitutes the only security umbrella for all Lebanese, regardless of their religious affiliation.

At 1430 GMT Lebanese Army officers took over the Hotel Dieu Hospital area from the Lebanese Forces, whose last convoy left for Kasrawan this morning. The Army took over the Lebanese Forces' checkpoint at Beirut port and intensified its deployment on the Nahr al-Mawt-al-Dubayyah highway. Meanwhile, an Army force took up positions on the periphery of the Hotel Dieu Hospital and on the Sasin traffic circle, preparatory to its deployment in al-Ashrafiyah and its environs. An Army battalion arrived at the al-Najmah Square shortly before 1400, and will later deploy in the commercial markets area.

Meanwhile, the 6th Brigade has just announced that its units are deploying in the western parts of Greater Beirut and Ra's al-Nab'. The 11th Brigade is expanding its deployment toward 'Alayh and Qabr Shmun.

Units of the 12th Brigade set out from al-Rawshah and headed toward the Southern Suburb. Meanwhile the 2d, 5th, and 7th Brigades are currently expanding their deployment to cover the al-Matn regions.

'Final Phase' Completed

NC0312181490 *(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon*
in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Statement issued by the 5th Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff on 3 December; place not given]

[Text] The Lebanese Forces completed the final phase of their withdrawal from East Beirut today, 3 December 1990. The withdrawal, which was carried out under the supervision of Major Joseph Rizq, deputy chief of staff of the Lebanese Forces, took place in two convoys, the first of which left at 0600 GMT and the second at 1100 GMT. The final phase of the withdrawal included 2,000 fighters and 400 military vehicles comprising tanks,

armored personnel carriers, and trucks which carried ammunition and guns of various calibers.

Ja'ja' Comments

NC0312210390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Lebanese Force Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has affirmed that the establishment of Greater Beirut is a concrete achievement. What is more important, however, are the political steps, particularly the national charter and the restoration of Lebanon's freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

Dr. Ja'ja' added that the negotiations on Greater Beirut took some time, contrary to what some people had believed, but the withdrawal was completed on time. He noted that any massive operation involving a change in a situation that has existed for years requires transportation, preparations, and arrangements, and all these things take time.

Dr. Ja'ja' expressed regret that some factions implemented this step halfheartedly while the Lebanese Forces showed absolute seriousness.

Dr. Ja'ja' addressed a message of respect, gratitude, and thanks to all Lebanese Forces members who showed courage in times of war and who show equal courage today in a time of peace. He pledged to continue the march of resistance to reach a sovereign, free, and independent Lebanon.

Army Deployment 'Faltering'

NC0412075190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The Lebanese Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah, which was scheduled to take place yesterday morning, is still faltering due to conditions and counter-conditions imposed by Hizballah and the Amal Movement. So far there is nothing new in the resumption of the meetings of the Quadripartite Committee which is entrusted with following up the Damascus Agreement. However, ministerial sources said that efforts are under way to untie the Iqlim al-Tuffah knot and that the Quadripartite Committee is in charge of the matter.

The Iqlim al-Tuffah issue was discussed yesterday by Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri and a delegation from the Iranian Embassy in Beirut and then by Birri and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din. Informed sources said that the Amal Movement leader informed the Iranian delegation that regarding the gunmen's withdrawal from the Iqlim, the Amal Movement rejects the keeping of any military base in any village or town.

'Impediments' Noted

NC0412084090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] There are no new developments in the Lebanese Army's deployment in the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages yesterday which is pending the removal of some obstacles that recently emerged.

The Higher Quadripartite Committee is expected to meet to remove these obstacles which are hindering the Army's deployment and the withdrawal of the gunmen.

An Islamic source said subsequent meetings will be held to eliminate some impediments that emerged during the Quadripartite's meeting yesterday, for example the demand that the Islamic resistance post in al-Luwayzah be abolished as it was not originally stipulated by the Damascus agreement. The source noted that the escalation of resistance is the crucial matter in all the solutions proposed.

The source expressed optimism about resolving the problem and said that there is every intention to deal with these matters correctly in accordance with the concluded agreement.

Army To Regain Control of Ports

NC0412130290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Government sources have stated that the Army will regain control of the ports that are being used by the militias to import weapons and conduct illegal commercial activities.

REUTER cites military sources as having said that the Army will arrest gunmen and carry out weapons searches.

Activities of Israeli Forces in South Reported

NC0212133090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] The Israeli enemy stepped up its efforts to sabotage the peace process in Lebanon. An Israeli force advanced from its position in Tallat Sujud and reached an area one km south of 'Arab Salim today. The force personnel were spotted conducting searches.

The occupation authorities and agent groups continue to besiege the township of Arnun since martyr Fadwa Ghanim's heroic operation.

Moreover, an Israeli mechanized force was seen searching the road linking Arnun with Tallat 'Ali al-Tahir at noon today.

Five 'Terrorists' Killed

TA0312152990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] First to the north. Five terrorists were killed today in a clash with an SLA [South Lebanese Army] force in the security zone in southern Lebanon. The SLA did not sustain any casualties.

Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, reports:

The incident occurred one km northwest of the village of 'Alman, north of the security zone in the central sector of the border area. Several RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades] were fired at the SLA force. The SLA returned fire at the sources of fire and chased the terrorists to the al-Litani estuary for three hours. The SLA soldiers killed four terrorists in the first volley; a fifth was wounded and later died. A Kalashnikov assault rifle, ammunition, grenades, and two RPG launchers were found in the terrorists' possession. The SLA soldiers conducted wide searches in the area with tanks and armored personnel carriers. An artillery duel also developed in the region.

The terrorists belonged to the Syrian Ba'th Party and a terrorist organization linked to the Lebanese National Rejectionist Front, which has been responsible for several terrorist actions in the security zone against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA troops in recent weeks.

10 Killed in 'Security Zone'

NC0312144390 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Text] Hasbayya, Lebanon, Dec 3 (AFP)—Israeli troops and their proxy militia in southern Lebanon Monday killed 10 anti-Israeli combatants in two separate clashes near here, security sources and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) reported.

The two incidents occurred inside the Israeli-imposed "security zone" in southern Lebanon, the reports said, adding that the Israeli troops and SLA militiamen suffered no casualties in the clashes.

Clashes Continue

NC0412112490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] According to reports from the south, violent clashes have been taking place between Israeli forces and gunmen in the al-Hasbani area since this morning. The reports said that the Israeli forces closed all the approaches to the al-Hasbani area and that columns of smoke are seen rising over the area.

Israeli Planes Raid Central al-Biqa' Region

NC0112101790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1010 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided an area in central al-Biqa' at 1200 today. The planes are still flying in Lebanese airspace. We will provide you with more details as soon as we receive them.

Two Wounded

NC0112111690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1100 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided the area of Ta'labaya in central al-Biqa' at 1200 today. The raid was carried out by two F-16 planes. This new Israeli aggression wounded two persons and caused material damage.

Proposal on Israeli Talks Reportedly Rejected

NC0212183890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] At this critical juncture, Israel continues to obstruct the Lebanese legitimate authority's march to recover the south and deploy the Lebanese Army there after Israel withdraws in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

BEIRUT NEWS AGENCY cites political sources close to the president as saying that U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker has told the president, the prime minister, and the Chamber of Deputies speaker that Israel will not withdraw from the occupied border strip and Jazzin area until solutions are found to the major regional issues and a lasting peace is established between Lebanon and Israel.

The same sources disclosed that Crocker has proposed that indirect negotiations be launched between the Lebanese Government and Israel under U.S. sponsorship in order to reach an agreement under which Israel would withdraw from the occupied border strip and Jazzin and turn the area over to the Lebanese Army and international forces. The truce between Lebanon and Israel would then be developed.

The sources added that the governing troika refused to consider direct or indirect negotiations with Israel. They stressed that Washington should put pressure on Tel Aviv to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, arguing that the United States, which has firmly opposed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, should not accept Israel's occupation of a large portion of south Lebanon. [passage indistinct]

Lahd Comments on Army Deployment in Border Strip

NC0112184190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Antoine Lahd [commander of the South Lebanese Army] said today that the Lebanese Army will not be permitted to enter the border strip area without Israel's advance agreement. In a statement to REUTERS, he said

that the issue of this area can only be solved when a strong Lebanese government is established, a government which makes independent political decisions. He said that the government at present is weak and that Syria is the political decisionmaker. He noted that the border strip area and Jazzin have a special status that differs from Greater Beirut and other Lebanese areas.

Lahd Militiamen Fire at Southern Villages

NC0212183290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Antoine Lahd's militiamen have been directing heavy- and medium-caliber machinegun fire at locations in the Mimis valley from their positions in 'Ayn Qinya since 1830 today. Flares are also being fired in the region.

In another development, security reports from the south indicate that the Israeli occupation forces are conducting search operations among citizens in Arnun and the vicinity of 'Arab Salim. This measure was adopted in the wake of the suicide operation carried by Fadwa Ghanim. The Israeli forces have threatened to fire without warning at any citizen who approaches an Israeli patrol.

PSP Proposes Dialogue With Palestinians

NC0312141490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has said: It is obvious that Israel persists in its occupation of the south. Its leaders are declaring their intention to expand toward the north of the so-called security strip, following up these declarations with daily aggressions against the population of the occupied areas.

The party adds: It is equally clear that Israel persists in its expansionist and settlement policy and in annexing additional territories and stealing water supplies. In this they are assisted by the Americans.

If the march to rebuild the Army has been obstructed, if the legitimate government has appeared weak in its first step by submitting to the wishes of the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist Party, and if America plans to continue its support for Israel, how then can the south be liberated and how can international resolutions be implemented?

The only way to do this is to consolidate the role of the national resistance and rectify the course of the government through building a balanced national army which is capable of shouldering its responsibilities to implement the truce agreement in the south.

Touching on the issue of Palestinians in Lebanon, the PSP stressed that the Palestinian presence and its influence on Lebanon's future cannot be ignored. It stressed that this issue must be handled positively.

The PSP, which calls for giving all guarantees to the Palestinians in Lebanon and rejects the proposal to

disarm them, calls for launching a serious political dialogue between the legitimate Lebanese Government and the PLO in order to establish the foundations for a new relationship in coordination with Damascus. In this context, the PSP proposes that the Palestinian armed presence be organized within the framework of a Palestinian liberation army which has clearly defined relations with the Lebanese Army. [passage omitted]

This came in a PSP statement following an expanded meeting of the political bureau, the leadership, and party secretaries.

New Palestinian Appointments Examined

NC0412123690 Beirut AL-SHIRA in Arabic 3 Dec 90 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Dismissals and New Appointments in Fatah"]

[Text] Do the changes within the PLO reflect internal conflicts within Fatah, the Central Committee in Sidon? What are these changes, according to which some leaders and officials have been relieved of tasks previously assigned to them?

An informed Palestinian source has affirmed that the atmosphere is tense among the leaders of Fatah, the Central Committee, because of the recent appointments made by the PLO leadership in Tunis which defined the task of each leader and official without infringing on other tasks, especially since the recent diversification of the political and military powers involved many leaders and even the most minor officials in Fatah.

The source indicated that Yasir 'Arafat has given strict instructions to some leaders in Sidon to completely adhere to these decisions and appointments. 'Arafat also banned the issuance of any political statements on the Lebanese issue by anyone other than his representative who is officially authorized by him to do so.

The source added that this decision "came after the sharp remarks that were made by Fatah's political official Zayd Wahbah, which almost hampered the efforts being made to reach a Lebanese-Palestinian agreement that will regulate the armed Palestinian presence on the Lebanese territories."

The source said that the PLO has altered the name of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, to the Palestinian National Liberation Army [Jaysh al-Tahrir al-Watani and Filastini], which embraces all the Palestinian organizations under the wing of 'Arafat's Fatah movement.

A responsible source has indicated that the new Palestinian appointments are as follows:

Lieutenant Colonel Yunis 'Awwad, commissioner for the Lebanese region and Fatah's political representative;

Lieut. Col. 'Ala' al-Afandi, PLO's official spokesman and the military official in charge of the Liberation Army forces;

Lieut. Col. Anwar Madi, military and political commander of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and its forces;

Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, military official for the Lebanese region;

Lieut. Col. al-Hajj Tawfiq, chief of staff of the National Liberation Army;

Abu-Hasan Miqdah, commander of the Revolution Shield forces;

Salah Shadid, commander of the Ajnadin [as published]-Beirut forces;

Abu-Muhammad Za'rurah, commander of al-Zahrani forces;

Lieut. Col. Abu-Mahir, official in charge of the Revolution security organ;

Lieut. Col. Abu-Yasir, deputy to 'Ala' al-Afandi in the Liberation Army.

AL-SHIRA' has learned from a reliable Palestinian source that Zayd Wahbah has been completely excluded from this structure and summoned to Tunis to appear before the PLO leader. Lieut. Col. Muhsin Hallaq has been relieved of his duties because he was accused of cooperating with Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah and of handing over the Palestinian positions to Hizballah elements. Hallaq is to be sent to Tunis to appear before Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in the next few days. Mu'in Shubaytah has also been excluded from the current structure and given limited duties. As for Lieut. Col. Fathi Abu-Mahir, he has been excluded from the new structure but will assume political tasks assigned to him by the PLO leader.

An informed Palestinian source indicated that approximately 26 Palestinian officers and others will come to Lebanon from Jordan early next month to be appointed battalion commanders and deputy commanders. They include: Lieut. Col. Majdi, the PLO's official spokesman and the official in charge of unified information and the "WAFA" agency; and Lieut. Col. Haydar, commander of the militia forces in Lebanon.

Lebanese Forces Reportedly Sell Weapons to Rwanda
NC0412064890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] According to diplomatic sources, huge quantities of the weapons which the Lebanese Forces had seized from the Lebanese Army have been sold to Rwanda, which has been the scene of bloody incidents for some time now. The sale was conducted and supervised by Lebanese and Israeli merchants who met with Lebanese Forces officials aboard a boat at high seas, diplomatic sources confirmed.

Lahhud Confers With U.S. Envoy on Military Aid
NC3011175990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker visited Army Commander General Emile Lahhud at his office in Beirut this morning. They discussed the current situation and the progress made so far in implementing the Greater Beirut Plan.

The Army Command's Guidance Directorate reported that Amb. Crocker and Gen. Lahhud discussed the ways the United States could help in rebuilding the Army. Amb. Crocker reiterated his government's support for establishing a strong Army capable of consolidating the state's authority throughout Lebanon. He expressed U.S. readiness to supply the army with the needs required to carry out its national tasks.

Ja'ja' States All Issues 'Open to Discussion'
PM3011155590 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
30 Nov 90 pp21-25

[Interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' by Alf Laylah Wa Laylah Publishing House team consisting of Ilyas 'Awn, Nelly Hilu, Sabin Farra, and Joseph Qusayfi in al-Kufur; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-HAWADITH] Getting the foreigners out of Lebanon is one of the slogans of the Lebanese Forces [LF]. How could that be achieved? Will your demands be taken into consideration, and will you get what you want through political means?

[Ja'ja'] Well, would anyone agree to his country's not being free, sovereign, and independent? No. All our efforts are certainly geared toward a Lebanese state that on the internal level is modern, developed, and capable of fulfilling the aspirations of all Lebanese factions; and on the national level, a state that is free and independent with sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. We have the al-Ta'if agreement. This matter is the essence of that agreement that has a specific program for that purpose. Fine, let us try to implement that agreement. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] There have recently been some contacts between Syria and the LF. The latest was your meeting with General Ghazi Kan'an. The question is: What does the LF want from Syria, and in your view what could Syria ask of the LF at this new stage of political action?

[Ja'ja'] The issue of Lebanese-Syrian relations is 15 years old, and during that period it was at times tackled seriously while at some other times it was used as a maneuvering factor. The al-Ta'if agreement was reached with full Arab and international support. It addressed the issue of Lebanese-Syrian relations and put forward a specific framework for these relations. All our moves are made on that basis and in accordance with that framework that is the framework of Lebanese legitimacy.

[AL-HAWADITH] How would you describe the phase reached in your dialogue? Is it positive?

[Ja'ja'] From now on it is the state's job. We consider ourselves to be a part, in one way or another, of the Lebanese state and of the Lebanese legitimacy, and we prefer to deal with all matters on that basis. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] There are those who say that the question of national resistance in the South should not come under the al-Ta'if article on disbanding the militias. Earlier, U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Djerejian linked the question of disbanding the militias to the Palestinian armed presence. Some observers saw his statement as offering some kind of immunity for the LF when the issue of the militias is seriously raised. What is your view?

[Ja'ja'] First of all, we are going ahead with al-Ta'if agreement out of conviction. We are pushing that agreement forward and we are not looking for pretexts to obstruct it. Second, if we want to address the question of the Lebanese state seriously, then we should not half-tackle it. What state would have revolutionary organizations sharing the management of its affairs with it? If we are talking about the Lebanese state, then the Lebanese state is the resistance in the South. Otherwise what would be the point of a Lebanese state if every group wanted to solve its own problem in its own way on its own responsibility? What would be the purpose of the state if it were not to solve the problems of the South, al-Biq'a, and the North? [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Some people claim that Arens was in fact drawing the red lines when he mentioned the Jazzin area.

[Ja'ja'] Jazzin is an integral part of Lebanese territory. This is not a free-for-all world with everyone drawing the lines he likes. If it were, I would want the state of California reserved for me. We cannot deal with this matter according to the logic of domination. No. Perhaps in the Gulf some changes could occur, but even that is not certain, and if such changes did occur they would not be major changes that would change entities. They could be changes perhaps related to regimes or the extremism of regimes. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] We are approaching the formation of a government of national unity. Would the LF veto the inclusion of anyone in such a government?

[Ja'ja'] Not at all: The Christians will be represented by Christians.

[AL-HAWADITH] Would you veto any particular individuals?

[Ja'ja'] Not at all, not at all.

[AL-HAWADITH] Is there a possibility of a reconciliation between Dr. Ja'ja' and [former LF Commander] Elie Hubayqah, since both have accepted the al-Ta'if agreement? Hubayqah has formed a party and is talking about political action, and you said that you could conceivably form a political party. Would you then come together?

[Ja'ja'] We believe that we have no problems with any group that joined the al-Ta'if agreement.

[AL-HAWADITH] Does this mean that old differences have been resolved?

[Ja'ja'] As far as we are concerned, disputes of a military, security, or violent nature no longer exist.

[AL-HAWADITH] Would you use the veto against Elie Hubayqah if he were nominated to join the new government?

[Ja'ja'] No. No veto against anyone.

[AL-HAWADITH] Would they [Hubayqah's followers] be able to set up centers in the LF areas?

[Ja'ja'] Provided that the LF has centers in the other areas. There can be no one-sided agreement.

[AL-HAWADITH] As it turns to the future, what future does the LF institution have outside Beirut?

[Ja'ja'] Why outside Beirut? The LF is in the heart of Beirut. Why do people see only the military aspect of the LF and pass judgment on that basis...?

[AL-HAWADITH] Because it is considered the military wing of the Phalangist Party.

[Ja'ja'] But I believe that events have proved that the most important wing of the LF is the political wing. The sooner we build the state, the less important the military wing of the LF becomes.

[AL-HAWADITH] But it has so many of its own institutions.

[Ja'ja'] And they will continue. The LF is above all a cause, a political program, a commitment, and a struggle. The military aspect was the result of military developments in Lebanon. Had there been no heavy Palestinian armed presence and had that presence not begun with a war against the Lebanese people, there would have been no LF armed presence. Had the state continued to exist, there would have been no LF armed presence. As soon as the state emerges once again there will be no justification for a LF military presence and the LF will continue as a political trend with its own political program and aspirations.

[AL-HAWADITH] Separate from the Phalangist Party?

[Ja'ja'] That matter is open to discussion in principle. We could apply the same formula or we could use other formulas. All that is open to discussion. [passage omitted]

Government Ready To Send More Troops to Gulf
JN0112152190 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas has declared that His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad highly appreciates the position taken by His Highness President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan on all pan-Arab issues.

He said in an interview published in AL-ITTIHAD today that His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan is a symbol of Arab chivalry and pride and that he is also a man of Arab stands.

The Syrian defense minister also said that his highness the president represents the values and principles of our ancestors and genuinely reflects Arab generosity and purity.

Gen. Talas announced that Syria was ready to send more troops to defend the Gulf countries and the holy lands against any aggressor. He said: We are ready to transfer half a million soldiers to the Gulf.

Gen. Talas said he hoped that the Iraqi president would regain his senses, because going back to righteousness is better than an excess of injustice and because the troops present in the Arabian Peninsula are now capable of liberating Kuwait.

Paper Views Syrian-Saudi-Egyptian Meetings

JN0212112190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GMT 2 Dec 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In the "Behind the News" column, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the meetings of the third session of talks due to be held in Cairo tomorrow among the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.

The paper says this session of talks will be held against the backdrop of new Gulf circumstances and developments that have taken place since the Jeddah and Damascus talks were held among the three ministers. The paper adds: Hence, the purpose of the meetings among the foreign ministers of the three Arab countries—Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia—is to complete their discussion of Gulf developments and coordinate their positions and efforts to resolve the crisis on the basis of Arab and international resolutions in a manner that would spare the Arab nation the dangers of a confrontation and safeguard the higher pan-Arab interests.

In its commentary, TISHRIN adds that concerted Arab efforts, which are needed urgently to defuse the crisis, are, in these circumstances, a pan-Arab responsibility that must be assumed. The paper adds: Similarly, a favorable response demonstrating a positive and constructive spirit must be made to these efforts. The third session of talks among the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia will undoubtedly discuss all of this and make efforts to consolidate and enhance Arab

endeavors through coordinating positions to produce cooperation that seeks to improve the Arab situation and to control the course of events and developments.

'Sincere Arab Efforts' Offered if Iraq Withdraws

JN0312161790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Today in Cairo, the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia will take stock of developments on the Arab arena, particularly in the Gulf region, in light of two significant events: The Security Council resolution which warns the Iraqi Government to withdraw from Kuwait no later than 15 January, taking into consideration the potential use of force if it does not comply, and President Bush's initiative opening a direct dialogue with Iraq in a bid to avoid war and restore Kuwaiti rights to their owners peacefully, if possible.

The truth is that the Gulf crisis has reached a dangerous stage that threatens to explode. Military preparations are in full swing, and the region is witnessing a massive land and sea buildup. One stray bullet could touch off a conflagration. Hence, the ongoing Syrian-Egyptian-Saudi consultations to remind the Government of Iraq and world governments of the consistent Arab position defined at the emergency Arab summit in Cairo calling for the unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of legitimacy in this small Arab country, whereby it might be able to resume its role within its family and vicinity.

Arab efforts, especially those of the Arab countries that sent forces to the Gulf, have been primarily devoted to doing everything possible to uphold a peaceful settlement and shun war. During the talks President al-Asad held with U.S. President Bush in Geneva, the emphasis was on the priority of a peaceful settlement. This is because the Arab nation is concerned with Iraq and its energies and capabilities in the interest of its fateful conflict with the Zionist enemy.

When the Arabs denounced the Iraqi invasion and declared support for the Kuwaiti cause, they in fact rendered an invaluable service to Iraq itself. This is because if war breaks out in the Gulf, it will be a disaster for the Iraqi people, and its destructive effects will cast their shadow on the Iraqi people for scores of years. Had all the Arabs adopted the firm policy embraced by Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, the crisis would not have taken its present course.

The Iraqi Government has taken the positions of some Arab parties as an encouragement for it to pursue its scheme, which aims to swallow up Kuwait and destroy its structure. These parties have thus contributed to the creation of the difficult, complicated situation the Gulf crisis is currently experiencing, which portends the gravest of dangers.

If the principles of the Arab League prevent one Arab party from attacking another, and do not permit the use of force to resolve disputes, Arab traditions and ethics reject an Arab stabbing another Arab in the back. What happened in Kuwait is indeed a treacherous action which the Arabs should be the first to oppose. Had all Arab countries hastened to send forces to the Gulf as did Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco, the situation would be different now. The Iraqi Government, whatever the degree of its arrogance and disdain, cannot stand in the face of an effective Arab will. As for the Gulf countries, which were subjected to a direct threat, they would have accepted the Arab presence as sufficient and disposed of the foreign presence.

There is no question that the Gulf crisis is now at the most dangerous turning point: It will be either a peaceful settlement or a devastating war. There is no other way but to admit that the Arabs have lost control of the situation, owing to some parties' evasion and failure to take a decisive, deterrent position, and the Iraqi Government's consequent employment of these parties to obstruct Arab resolutions. Needless to say, Iraq is today being subjected to a serious threat, and removing this threat cannot be achieved by making pretentious statements and adopting strong-arm, insidious positions, but by returning to the most basic principles of pan-Arab action. Pan-Arab action prohibits recourse to force in intra-Arab relations. The Arabs have been steeped in this principle since their early childhood. Iraq's violation of this principle has touched off the present crisis. Pan-Arab action prohibits an aggression of any Arab country on another, not to mention appending and annexing by force. Pan-Arab action, moreover, prohibits any Arab country from monopolizing fateful decisions which affect the nation's present and future.

Saving Iraq from a disaster demands a return to the ABC's of pan-Arab action, and consequently, the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and returning freedom and legitimacy to this Arab country. When Iraq declares its sincere intentions to withdraw, then it opens the door wide to sincere Arab efforts to defuse the explosion and calm the situation. Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia will certainly be among the first to extend sincere efforts to amend the Arab situation anew, resuscitate solidarity, and evict foreign forces from the region.

Commentary Rebuts Iraqi Reasons for Invasion

JN0112132590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When it convened the day before yesterday, the National Progressive Front [NPF] reiterated the fact that the way out of the Gulf crisis is for Iraq to comply forthwith with the emergency Arab League summit resolution calling for its withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of the country's legitimate government so as to spare Iraq and its Army further suffering and tragedy. The NPF incorporates all Syrian

parties, bodies, and officials, and so the call means Syria is resolutely behind this stand. This is to spare Iraq and its Army suffering and tragedy and the potential consequences of adventurism, stubbornness, ignorance, and disregard for the global balance of forces.

Iraq's action was wrong in terms of both place and time. It would be an even graver error for Iraq to persist in its intransigence and to continue to ignore appeals from bothers and the international community to undo the mistake, which is growing more grievous every day. All the excuses made by Iraq to put an acceptable face on the invasion, occupation, and annexation count for nothing. Their contention that what they have done is to promote the Palestine question could not be more naive. The struggle for Palestine does not begin in Kuwait. The smallest child knows the distance between Kuwait and Palestine, and that Kuwait could not be a more far-fetched site from which to launch the battle for the liberation of Palestine. The occupation of Kuwait has done nothing to tip the scales in favor of the Arabs against their common enemy. Iraqi media has been trumpeting Kuwait as the theater for a momentous battle. But the theater for such a momentous battle does not properly belong in the land of brothers and should not be against them, but rather against a Zionist enemy hell-bent on building Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile.

As for their talk about Arab unity and the return of the part to the whole and the branch to the root, this is a delusion that the Iraqi leaders should not fall for, and no one will buy. The cause of Arab unity can hardly be helped by antagonizing unionist sentiments, or emphasizing parochial sentiments and discrediting the notion of unity with the Arab masses. It is inconceivable for Arab unity to be achieved unilaterally; Iraq has failed to find a dozen Kuwaitis to sanction the occupation. Is it at all possible to call what Iraq is doing in Kuwait unity? When did forceful occupation become unity? How can we describe one part canceling out another part unity? How does one part of the Arab nation allow itself to annul another part regardless of the will of the Arab nation? Who gave Iraq the power of attorney for the Arab nation, and sanctioned unity by force of arms? Not even the people of Iraq did.

The argument that the struggle is one between the haves and the have-nots, Arab toilers and the amirs of oil, or rich Arab countries and poor Arabs does not hold water, since, for instance, Iraq is no less rich than Kuwait, and, into the bargain, a major oil producer itself. Nor are its oil revenues small. Before the senseless war against Iran, Iraq's deposits amounted to approximately \$70 billion. These billions and scores more of Gulf money have been squandered on that senseless, pointless war. Iraq's funds and whatever aid it has received have gone down the drain thanks to adventurist bankrupt policies. All the money in the world, let alone the money from Kuwait, would have fallen short of bankrolling Iraq's reckless war and unplanned steps and battles that bear no relation to the pan-Arab issue.

As for Iraq's talk about protecting Islam and its sanctities, this is so much drivel meant to mislead and misinform. It is universally recognized that it was those who profess concern for Islam and the land of Islam that must take the blame for bringing foreign forces into the Gulf and forcing their brothers there to invite these forces in. It was they also who have handed the United Nations and all foreign forces the pretext to come to the land of the Arabs and their waters and push Iraq to the brink of disaster.

And yet, all things considered, it is still possible for those who profess concern for Islam and its sanctities to pave the way for the departure of foreign forces from Arab territory. All they have to do is remove the pretext used by these forces to stay on. The situation is grave and calls for speedy action and a grasp of the new facts of the world. It is not too late yet. But a timebomb is ticking, as we approach a situation whose consequences for Iraq, the Arab nation, and the region are impossible to predict.

Syria has made its position known, and, since the first week of the invasion, has been making genuine, disinterested calls to Iraqi brothers through its struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad. Driven by a deeply felt sense of its pan-Arab responsibilities, Syria now reiterates its call to the brothers in Iraq, and in the name of the NPF in Syria, in the hope that the call will be heeded and the mistake rectified, before the catastrophe strikes, and it is too late.

General Talas Addresses Naval College Graduates

*JN0212124090 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, and as part of the celebration of our masses and valiant Armed Forces on the 20th anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement, a celebration was held today on the graduation of a new class of students of the Naval College.

General Mustafa Talas—deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister—deputized for the president. Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. 'Ali Aslan, comrade members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, and ministers attended the celebration. [passage omitted]

Amid applause and praise of the party and its secretary general, struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Gen. Talas delivered a speech, which he began by conveying greetings to the graduates from the commander in chief, President Hafiz al-Asad, and his wishes for success in performing their sacred national and pan-Arab duties, and in embodying the party's principles, and leader al-Asad's instructions and his militant values. [passage omitted]

The representative of the commander in chief, Gen. Talas, reviewed current developments in our region. He stressed that what the Iraqi regime has given to world Zionism, through his unjust war against Iran in the past, and his invasion of fraternal Kuwait later is invaluable. No one

can imagine the catastrophe this invasion has caused to the Arab nation by bringing foreign forces to the Arabian Gulf. It is no secret to anyone that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has instigated the whole world against the Arabs and reduced the interest in their central cause, Palestine, thus covering the crimes of Zionism against our Palestinian people's intifadah and the escalating Jewish emigration to the occupied territories.

Gen. Talas said that Syria, out of its national and pan-Arab duty, and in cooperation with the legitimate Lebanese Government and the Lebanese Army, ended the rebellion, achieved security and stability in Beirut, and restored normal life to Lebanon. He added: Despite our pan-Arab burdens in Lebanon, leader al-Asad ordered the dispatch of Syrian forces to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in order to confirm the continuation of Syria's pan-Arab approach of defending the Arab nation, its sanctities, and existence in any place and at any time required by the pan-Arab situation.

Addressing the graduates, Gen. Talas said: Always be the sleepless eye that protects the homeland's security and safety, maintain combat preparedness, and follow the values of the party and its secretary general. You should know that you and your comrades in the Armed Forces constitute the pillars and protectors of this homeland.

Concluding his speech, Gen. Talas thanked the director, officers, and instructors of the college, and wished them further progress and prosperity. He pledged to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Arab masses that our Armed Forces will continue to be the nation's impregnable fortress and bright hope to achieve its objectives of victory and liberation. [passage omitted]

Qatari Trade Minister Arrives for Talks

Makes Arrival Statement

*JN0212114790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 30 Nov 90*

[Text] Damascus—Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Qatari minister of economy and trade, and his delegation arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to Syria lasting several days.

Receiving him at Damascus international Airport was Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; senior employees at the Ministry of Economy; the Qatari ambassador in Damascus; and embassy staff.

Shaykh Hamad made a statement to SANA [SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY] in which he praised the distinguished relations of fraternity and cooperation between the two fraternal countries, Syria and the State of Qatar, especially in economy and trade.

He said the object of his visit is to hold economic talks with ranking officials in Syria, and to sign an economic agreement that bolsters and strengthens the progress of these

distinguished economic relations and opens new horizons for developing them. He added that Syria has a special status, especially among the fraternal Arab Qatari people.

For his part, Dr. al-'Imadi expressed joy over the visit of Shaykh Hamad al-Thani and his delegation to Syria, so they can see the progress and development Syria is witnessing under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that, in affirmation of the implementation of the policies of the two countries to develop economic cooperation in trade, investment, and technical cooperation, we are moving in the direction of economic integration and along the path of Arab economic unity that we are seeking.

Meets With Khaddam

*JN0312091590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1200 today Shaykh Hamad Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Qatari minister of trade and economy. The Qatari ambassador in Damascus was present.

Talks centered on the situation in the Gulf and bilateral relations.

Confers With Prime Minister

*JN0212213990 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1900 today Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani, minister of economy and trade in the State of Qatar. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Mr. Mani' 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Hajiri, Qatari ambassador in Damascus.

During this meeting, talks centered on fraternal relations between Syria and Qatar and ways of developing economic cooperation and trade exchange and expanding this cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, and projects in various fields that meet the aspirations of the two countries.

The prime minister also asked about the talks the visiting minister held in Damascus, and affirmed their importance. The talks also dealt with several other issues of interest.

Afghanistan

Government Denies Mujahidin Claim of Gains

BK0212115090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1143 GMT
2 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec 2 (AFP)—The Afghan Government has denied recent claims of military gains near Kabul by the Pakistan-based resistance, but acknowledged that its forces were under some pressure.

General Nabi Azimi, commander of the Kabul garrison, said here late Saturday that the claims, by the Hezbe Eslami group of radical fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, were designed to hamper a peace process set in motion by Kabul.

Gen. Azimi dismissed reports Friday that the guerrillas had captured a large number of government posts in Mohammad Agha, a devastated town about 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of the capital. The town is located on a strategically important road leading to the southern province of Paktia.

Eyewitnesses confirmed Gen. Azimi's claim that the town was under the control of government forces, who were firing with heavy artillery at guerrilla positions a few kilometres (miles) further south.

The road to Paktia was open, they said, and government troops were under pressure, but did not appear to be in imminent danger of being dislodged.

Gen. Azimi said mujahidin claims that they had recaptured the Paghman Mountains northwest of Kabul and forced the shut-down of the country's second largest air base, Bagram in the north, were also false. However, he said Bagram had been under pressure over the past two weeks.

The government is still using the airbase to bomb guerrilla positions near Mohammad Agha where Gen. Azimi said some 400 mujahidin were entrenched in the mountains and testing the government's defence lines.

The latest military action followed a trip by President Najibullah to Geneva two weeks ago, where he met with Afghan intellectuals believed to be representing former King Zahir Shah, toppled in 1973.

Mr. Najibullah said November 26 that he was working on a new peace plan to end the 12-year war, and proposed that Afghanistan be made a totally demilitarised zone backed with international guarantees under U.N. supervision.

Najibullah Message on Constitution's Anniversary

LD0112095490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 30, BAKHTAR—Following delivering wholehearted felicitations on the 3rd anniversary of the country's Constitution to all Afghans residing inside and outside the country, I want to add that the

Afghan people call it as the Constitution of national reconciliation, because on one hand it is the production of the National Reconciliation Policy "NRP", and on the other, as it has been reflected in its prelude, attaining a nation-wide peace and consolidation of national unity are its outstanding goals.

Says the message of Najibullah president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] published on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the country's Constitution today.

The Constitution of the RA which has been drafted on the basis of the principles of sacred religion of Islam, national and Afghani accepted traditions, observance of world declaration on human rights and UN charter, is an outstanding national bond, [word indistinct] socio-economic and political life of our country in accordance with the requirements of the NRP through legal point of view, the message stress.

In our country with endorsement of the Constitution based on parliamentary and political pluralism principles, new state regime was formed which provided ground for all Afghan society, parties, political and social organizations to take active part in the leadership and state and society management in order to realize NRP and to attain peace in the country, it adds.

The draft of the Constitution was put for public for the first time in the country history, over two million persons took part in it, about 15,000 proposals were sent to the Constitution drafting commission which in itself is the manifestation of national democratic characteristics of the Constitution.

With the enshrining of the principle of the separation of the three state bodies in the Constitution of the country, the parliament of the country through general, secret, direct and equal elections was formed, and a government with coalition character consisting of the representatives of the different political parties as well as influential non-party personalities was established.

Meanwhile, the judicial body of the country come into being as an independent and non-party organ of the state, the message remarks.

The message emphasised that since the approval of the Constitution of the RA, and as per the initiatives and peaceful proposals of the RA's state towards the materialisation of the NRP, certain developments and victories have been scored both at national and international levels.

In the course of this space of time, a large number of armed opposition groups have joined NRP, and a large number of the Afghan refugees have returned back to their ancestral homeland.

With the conclusion of the Geneva accords and the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from our country, independent defending of independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country promoted the international prestige and credibility of the RA's state both at national and international levels.

The May, 1990, Loya Jergah "Grand" Assembly by introducing important amendments in the Constitution, a great stride was taken forward for the consolidation of the basis of the state and total political system was formed on the basis of political pluralism aimed at deepening democracy, the message stresses.

The RA state as in the past, the message says, is decisively defending freedom and democracy and tries its utmost for the sovereignty of law and consolidation of legality, guaranteeing rights and freedom of citizens and effectively uses powerful arms of democracy for the creation of an atmosphere of trust and confidence, brotherhood and Islamic and Afghan fraternity.

'Extremists' Killed in Factional Clashes

LD3011222190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] As a result of internal discord among the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Rabbani, heavy clashes have recently taken place among them in Khanabad District, Konduz Province, and in Khugiani District, Nangarhar Province.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of these clashes seven persons were killed from both sides and a number of them were injured.

A convoy of arms and ammunition belonging to the extremist group of Mawlawi Khalis was attacked recently by the extremist Gulbuddin group in some parts of Ruhdad District, Nangarhar Province. According to a report by the BAKHTAR military section, as a result of this attack the convoy's ammunition and arms were plundered by the men of the extremist group of Gulbuddin.

The report adds that the men of the extremist group of Mawlawi Khalis, to take revenge against the extremist group of Gulbuddin, attacked their gathering places in some parts of that district, as a result of which three persons from the Gulbuddin group were killed and their arms and ammunition were seized by the rival group.

Cooperation Accords Signed With Alma-Ata Oblast

LD0212185690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Excerpt] A cooperation protocol was signed this afternoon in Kabul between Alma-Ata Oblast and the Republic of Afghanistan. According to this protocol, Alma-Ata oblast will provide assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan in the areas of commerce, construction, irrigation, power, and banking activities.

The protocol was signed for Afghanistan by the head of department of direct Cooperation of the Council of Ministers, and for Alma-Ata Oblast by the first deputy head of the Alma-Ata Oblat Executive Committee.

Also a protocol on cooperation between Alma-Ata Oblast and Qandahar Province was signed this afternoon in Kabul. Based on this protocol Alma-Ata will provide free assistance worth 860,000 rubles to Qandahar Province in the form of (?consumable) goods, medicine, medical equipment, agriculture machinery and clothes.

This protocol was signed for Qandahar Province by Sultan 'Ali Urozgani, first deputy head of the Qandahar governor general office, and for Alma-Ata Oblast by the first deputy head of the Executive Committee of Alma-Ata Oblast.

Protocols were also signed this afternoon between the Ministry of Water and Power of the Republic of Afghanistan and Alma-Ata Oblast. According to this protocol, Alma-Ata Oblast will render assistance in digging deep irrigation wells and power supply to Qandahar province. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Spokesman for Opposition Spurns Ershad Offer

BK0312171490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1658 GMT
3 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 3 (AFP)—Bangladesh's main opposition parties Monday spurned President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's announcement that he would resign 15 days before national elections and hand over power to a vice-president.

"It is not acceptable to us," Kamal Haider, a spokesman of the three major opposition alliances spearheading the oust-Ershad campaign, said by telephone shortly after Mr. Ershad appeared on state-run television.

Mr. Ershad, 60, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup, told the nation he had accepted the opposition framework under which a vice-president would be appointed and elections held under an interim caretaker government.

"He (Ershad) must resign and hand over power to a neutral vice-president. That vice-president will become the acting president. That acting president will declare the election schedules for a sovereign parliament," Mr. Haider said.

Mr. Haider said he was speaking on behalf of the Awami League eight-party alliance of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Begum Khaleda Zia's seven-party alliance headed by her Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the left-wing five-party group of Nirmal Sen.

The president had not accepted the modalities announced by the opposition on November 19, so his offer was "redundant," he [Haider] said.

Opposition Strike Takes Hold in Dhaka

BK0412042290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0412 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 4 (AFP)—A nationwide strike called in defiance of emergency regulations took hold here Tuesday as the campaign to oust President Hussain Mohammad Ershad continued despite his offer to step down.

Shops were shuttered and most traffic off the roads but troop and police patrols continued to comb the capital and witness said opposition groups led small protest marches in some districts.

Mr. Ershad said Monday he would step down 15 days before calling general elections in 1991, but the offer was rejected by a united opposition which has called on him to step down immediately and vowed to continue its campaign to oust him.

"I hope this will end the state of anarchy prevailing in the country," the 60-year-old former general, who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup, said in a nationally broadcast speech.

But the opposition, including the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia, dubbed Mr. Ershad's offer unacceptable.

Sheikh Hasina said: "Our demand is the immediate resignation of Ershad and (the holding of) free and fair polls for a sovereign parliament under a neutral government."

Begum Zia said nothing short of Mr. Ershad's immediate resignation was acceptable. "This is a mere bluff to hoodwink the people," she said.

The opposition has been campaigning for eight years to oust Mr. Ershad and hold free and fair polls under an interim neutral government.

In response to increasing anti-government unrest, which the opposition claim has left 100 people dead since October 10, Mr. Ershad declared a state of emergency last Tuesday, banning strikes and demonstrations and imposing an indefinite curfew, which was relaxed Tuesday for 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. (0000 GMT to 1500 GMT).

AFP Reports on Strike

BK0412084790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0826 GMT
4 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 4 (AFP)—Bangladesh was gripped Tuesday by a nationwide strike as thousands of protestors took to the streets to demand the immediate resignation of president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, witnesses and opposition sources said.

Road, rail and air links were severed as shops, markets, banks and government buildings closed down in the capital and the southeastern port city of Chittagong.

Troops and police, who have opened fire repeatedly on protestors over the past few days, watched in silence as marchers paraded through the capital's Motijheel business district shouting anti-government slogans in defiance of emergency regulations outlawing strikes and demonstrations.

The strike was the first of a series planned by the opposition to run until early next week to force President Ershad to step down and make way for fresh elections under a neutral, caretaker government.

Dhaka's Zia International Airport was shut and no planes had taken off or landed since morning, airport officials said.

Railway officials said rail links between the capital and most parts of the country had been suspended and road and river traffic nationwide had ground to a halt.

Chittagong was paralysed as hundreds of demonstrators blocked streets and work was halted at the docks, witnesses and opposition sources said.

Witnesses contacted by telephone in the southern town of Rajbari and the eastern town of Comilla said bus and trains had stopped running and reported big anti-government demonstrations.

Mr. Ershad said Monday he would step down 15 days before calling general elections in 1991, but gave no specific date for the polls. His offer was rejected by a united opposition which demanded he step down immediately and vowed to continue its eight-year campaign to oust him. "I hope this will end the state of anarchy prevailing in the country," the 60-year-old former general, who seized power in a 1982 military coup, said in a nationally broadcast speech.

But the two main opposition groups, the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia, dubbed Mr. Ershad's offer unacceptable.

Sheikh Hasina said: "Our demand is the immediate resignation of Ershad and (the holding of) free and fair polls for a sovereign parliament under a neutral government." "Our campaign (to oust Mr. Ershad) will go on and I appeal to people to go forward with the strikes planned for the coming days," she said.

Begum Zia said nothing short of Mr. Ershad's immediate resignation was acceptable. "This is a mere bluff to hoodwink the people," she said.

Anwar Zahid, secretary general of the opposition National Democratic Party, said Mr. Ershad's speech was a device to keep the "corrupt" government in power. "The cunning device to divert the objective of the movement will never be accepted by the people," warned Mr. Zahid, a former information minister under Mr. Ershad.

In response to increasing anti-government unrest, which the opposition claim has left 100 people dead since

October 10, Mr. Ershad declared a state of emergency last Tuesday, banning strikes and demonstrations and imposing an indefinite curfew, which was relaxed Tuesday for 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. (0000 GMT to 1500 GMT).

Civil Servants Resign

BK0412085290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 4 (AFP)—Bangladesh civil servants Tuesday resigned and demonstrated against the government in the tight-security downtown secretariat complex.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Civil Service Coordination Council announced in front of the National Press Club that they were stopping work immediately.

India

Pakistan Accused of Diplomatic 'Harassment'

BK0312135090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] New Delhi has deplored the press statements issued by the Pakistan High Commission alleging harassment of its staff by Indian personnel in New Delhi. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the press statements are a cover-up for the provocative harassment meted out to the Indian personnel serving in our mission in Karachi and Islamabad. He said the intimidation of our personnel has been continuing over the last seven months and there has been no improvement in the situation despite considerable efforts made by New Delhi.

Commentary Views UK Leadership Change

BK3011140990 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 30 Nov 90

[L.K. Sharma commentary]

[Text] The end of Thatcher era in Britain has been more dramatic and abrupt than the recent revolution in Eastern Europe. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher has walked out of the 10 Downing Street for the last time, bequeathing to a generally grateful nation a young successor Mr. John Major and a mixed legacy of her early economic achievements and social failures.

Mrs. Thatcher had transformed the country after taking it over in a somewhat rundown condition in 1979 from the Labor Party. She created a surge of national self esteem and released economic forces that generated a million success stories. Of course, in the past couple of years, the economic miracle has lost all the shine as disparities increased. Mrs. Thatcher made a mark as world (?stateswoman). She was, however, often at odds with the developing countries with regard to a view on development and the policy on South Africa. Her exit caused regret and annoyance to her old allies in Western capitals and new friends in the Soviet Union and the

fledgling democracies of Eastern Europe. While Mrs. Thatcher's popularity soared in these countries it began to decline in Britain, which had handed her three successive general election victories.

Thusly, she appeared to be a constant loser in the game of public opinion polls. This followed mounting economic problems and a strong resentment against a dreaded new local tax which her government introduced at the beginning of this year. A large number of her Conservative Party MP's [members of parliament] [word indistinct] at the prospects of a defeat in the next general elections. The time was thus ripe for a dissident to ultimately pick up the courage to challenge Mrs. Thatcher's leadership.

After her setback in the first but undecisive ballot, Mrs. Thatcher, who had vowed to fight on, took perhaps the second most important decision in her life. She withdrew from the contest instead of persisting and splitting the party. What is more, she ensured that her political friend, whom she had picked up from working class origin, succeeded her instead of the dissident challenger, who she suspected, would have destroyed her legacy. This was her main contribution, as great leaders, especially those who consider themselves indispensable, fail to groom their successors, that Mrs. Thatcher had within a year promoted Mr. John Major twice; last entrusting him with a sensitive chancellorship of the exchequer. She had confidence that Mr. Major would build on Thatcherism which eventually means free market, privatization, fiscal discipline, and importance of the individual and his choice.

Mr. John Major, who at the age of 47, won the leadership contest, thus promises both continuity and change. As the new prime minister, he has to show immediate results in the economic field. He has some experience in this area and is clearly accredited with a sharp and precise mind with an eye for economic detail. Mr. Major has indicated that he wishes to follow a tough anti-inflation strategy. The task before Mr. Major is challenging since there are no easy solutions to the problems of rising inflation, interest, and mortgage rates and unemployment. Industry has started bitterly complaining of a recession. If the Gulf crisis leads to a war, Mr. Major will have to meet the Britishers' expectations from a war time prime minister. He has to harmonize the government policy on Europe, which is important not only because of Britain's future place in the community and its serious domestic economic implications, but also because this issue has sharply divided the Conservative Party.

As the new prime minister, Mr. Major perhaps needs to smoothen the sharp edges of Thatcherism and improve the Conservative policies with compassion. He has to stay away from Mrs. Thatcher's inflexibilities and project capitalism with caution. He has to ensure that economic and political disparities are reduced. Significantly, in his campaign statement, Mr. Major talked of building a classless society. The Britain in which Mr.

Major has to secure a victory for the Conservative Party is the Britain of a growing under class and the Britain in which health, housing, education, and social services are breaking down under pressure.

Commentary Examines GATT Controversies

BK0412140390 Delhi General Overseas Service
in English 1010 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Tara Nair commentary]

[Text] As the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff, GATT, is infested with sharp divisions between the developing and developed countries on the one hand, and among developed countries on the other over major trade issues which have characterized much of the negotiations over the past few months, there is no evidence of a narrowing of the often irreconcilable positions taken on most of the 15 items that formed the agenda for the round. The agenda items can be classified under three major heads—those relating to opening markets, improving GATT, and expanding its scope.

On the issue of opening markets, virtually nothing has been achieved. The talks started with the objective of achieving a 33 percent reduction in tariff barriers. But this has been pushed into the background by the continuing differences between the United States and the European Community on the question of farm subsidies. As yet, there is no sign of a narrowing of the perceptions of these two major trading blocs on the issue. The United States has been pressing for separate negotiations on the three issues of domestic supports, import barriers, and export subsidies. Central to its proposals is the conversion of the non-tariff barriers to imports and to tariff barriers, with these being phased out over a 10-year period. They also want export subsidies to be phased out in five years and the dismantling of domestic supports that had trade (?distortions).

The European Economic Community has so far rejected discussing these issues separately and offered only a 30 percent cut in farm supports, while insisting that the cut should be on the basis of the overall formula that will ensure that no single policy measure such as export subsidies would be singled out for targeted reductions. There is also little prospect of an agreement on the dismantling of the multifiber agreement—an issue of importance to developing countries who have a greater stake in liberalizing trade in textiles. The United States has linked concessions on textile trade with agreements on other issues since it is felt that other interest lobbies must see substantial benefits accruing from the Uruguay round for the U.S. Government to be able to withstand pressure from the textile lobby.

Talks on improving GATT have been relatively more successful with the possible agreement on a faster mechanism for settling trade disputes and a general agreement for improving GATT's surveillance mechanism through differences remaining on the conversion of

GATT to a world trade body. However, two issues under this head, which have proved contentious, are the insistence by developed countries that the less developed nations should accept modification in GATT rules regarding the right of developing countries to protect markets when facing balance of payments difficulties, and the question of anti-dumping measures, where developing countries have found an ally in Japan. The third issue expanding the scope of GATT to cover intellectual property rights, trade relating investment measures, and (?trading) services has turned into a North-South dispute. The developing countries have accused the industrialized countries of stalling agreements on reversing protectionist measures that affected their exports while pushing for agreement in areas like services, intellectual property rights, and foreign investments that were of interest to developed countries.

In a more recent statement, the G-15 countries, including India, accused the West of having paralyzed the talks by displaying a lack of political will. India has been, along with Egypt and Brazil, the spokesman of the developing countries' point of view. India has argued forcefully for a quick resolution of the impasse over the multifiber agreement. It has also strongly opposed the developed countries stand on the issues on intellectual property rights, most importantly, the demand for changes in patent laws. Further, India has demanded that any talks on services should not exclude labor intensive services, for instance construction, that necessitate export of manpower.

Tamil Nadu Chief Meets Minister on Sri Lanka

BK0412093690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, and the union minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, had a meeting in New Delhi today. Later, Mr. Karunanidhi told newsmen that the detailed discussions are a follow-up of his talks with the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, yesterday on the Sri Lankan problem and the action proposed to be taken up by the Tamil Nadu government to tackle the menace posed by the Sri Lankan militants. Mr. Karunanidhi said that Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay did not apprise him about any plan to visit Tamil Nadu for an on the spot assessment of any LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] presence in the coastal areas of the state.

Sri Lankan Rebels Arrested in Tamil Nadu

BK3011152490 Hong Kong AFP in English
1443 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Madras, India, Nov 30 (AFP)—Police swooped on a Sri Lankan rebel hideout in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu early Friday and arrested 11 members of the island's dominant Tamil guerrilla group, police said.

The rebels initially bolted themselves inside a house in Tiruchirapalli District and threatened mass suicide if they were taken in but surrendered to the authorities after nine hours of negotiations.

A police statement here said all of them belonged to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful Tamil rebel group in Sri Lanka now waging a bloody separatist war.

However, nearly 40 other LTTE suspects escaped by jumping from the first floor of the house when a police party of 40 commandos armed with AK-47 assault rifles and 500 policemen swooped on them. Police seized a pistol and five barrels of kerosene, besides a jeep and a van from the house.

The 11 who were arrested reportedly told the police that they looked after fellow guerrillas wounded in fighting against Sri Lankan forces in the island's Tamil-dominated northeast.

Sri Lankan officials have accused the Tamil Nadu government of sheltering wounded LTTE guerrillas and allowing the rebels a free run of the coastal state to procure arms, ammunition and medicines. Tamil Nadu officials have denied the accusations.

Tamil Nadu, home to some 55 million Indian Tamils, is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea. In the past, Tamil militants from Sri Lanka are known to have been trained in Tamil Nadu.

On Sunday, police raided another LTTE hideout in this city and arrested three wounded guerrillas. Twelve others escaped.

Janata Dal-S Submits Lists New Members

*BK0412153490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 4 Dec 90*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, who is also the leader of the Janata Dal-S parliamentary party in the Lok Sabha, today submitted to the speaker a list of 63 Lok Sabha members who have joined the Janata Dal-S after split in the Janata Dal. Similarly, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, leader of the Janata Dal-S parliamentary party in the Rajya Sabha, submitted to the chairman of the Rajya Sabha a list of 15 members who have joined the party. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr. S.P. Malaviya, said that these members have also submitted the necessary forms informing the respective chairmen that under the changed situation they have joined the Janata Dal-S.

Shrine Meeting Decides To Exchange Documents

*BK0412153290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 4 Dec 90*

[Text] The Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] and the Babri Masjid [mosque] Action Committee have decided to exchange historical and other

documents in support of their respective stands on the Ayodhya temple issue. At the end of their second round of talks in New Delhi this evening, the representatives of the two organizations also resolved to meet on the 10th of next month. The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, and the chief ministers of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra also participated in the discussions. Speaking to reporters, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay said that they are discussing no specific proposal at present. He said the exchange of views is an attempt toward finding a peaceful solution to the issue. He said both the sides will present their documents to him by the 22d of this month for circulation among all concerned.

Advani Urges Debate on Secularism, Nationalism

*BK0112132290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has called for a national debate on the issues of nationalism and secularism. Addressing a public meeting in Bettiah in Bihar today, Mr. Advani called upon all the political parties to fight the next elections on the two issues. He alleged that misleading interpretation of nationalism and secularism has created several problems in the country.

Admiral Ram Das Assumes Navy Chief Duties

*BK3011122890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 30 Nov 90*

[Text] Admiral Lakshmi Narayan Ram Das today took over as chief of the naval staff from Admiral J.J. Nadkarni who retired after 41 years service in the Indian Navy. On arrival at the South Block, Admiral Ram Das was received by the outgoing naval chief and inspected a guard of honor. After completion of the handing and taking over, Admiral Nadkarni was given a warm send off.

Earlier, in the morning, Admiral Ram Das visited Raj Ghat and paid homage at the samadhi [mausoleum] of Mahatma Gandhi. He also laid a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti [memorial for immortal soldiers] at India Gate.

Punjab Police on Pakistani Arms to Militants

*BK3011163490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Nov 90*

[Text] The director general of Punjab police, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, has said that there has been an increase in the supply of Pakistani weapons for Punjab militants through various routes in Rajasthan. Talking to newsmen in Ludhiana today, he said the policemen are now the main targets of the militants.

Meanwhile, the district administration today extended the night curfew for another two months in about 200 villages on the Indo-Pakistan border in Amritsar region. The curfew was enforced to prevent smuggling of arms and ammunition and infiltration from across the border.

Assailant Guns Down Punjab Magistrate

*BK0312092390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] In Punjab, a judicial magistrate was gunned down by an unidentified assailant at Jagraon town of Ludhiana District this morning. According to an official spokesman, the victim was walking down to his office when he was attacked.

Former Punjab Chief Minister, Others Released

*BK0312160190 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] Reports from Chandigarh say the former Punjab chief minister, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, and several other Akali leaders were released today. They were arrested on the 24th of last month, following the government's ban on the Anandpur panthic [religious] meeting.

Punjab Governor Proposes Deploying Army

*BK0312165990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr. Virendra Verma, has said he has proposed to the center to deploy the Army in the sensitive areas of the state. He told newsmen in Ludhiana today that the sensitive areas include Batala, Zira, Tarn Taran, and Majitha. He said the army deployment will not be for operational purposes, but to create confidence among the people. The governor said an officer of the rank of Director General of Police would be deployed for the border districts range comprising Amritsar, Ferozepore, and Gurdaspur Districts.

Consultations on Punjab Problem To Begin Soon

*BK0412085490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 4 Dec 90*

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, has said that the process of consultations with political parties to resolve the Punjab problem will begin soon. He told PTI that the Punjab administration has been toned up and some changes in the official set up will also be announced soon.

Referring to Pakistan's interference in Punjab, the minister said the matter has already been taken up at the prime ministers level. On the law and order situation in Kashmir, he expressed satisfaction over the tackling of militants in the state. The minister added that the center has taken note of the trouble spots in the country and appropriate steps will be taken to deal with these.

11 Killed in Punjab 'Terrorist' Violence

*BK3011151690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 30 Nov 90*

[Text] In Punjab, 11 persons have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist violence in Barnala town of Sangrur

District, Rupar, Gurdaspur, and Amritsar Districts since last night. However, the agencies have put the death toll in terrorist violence at 21.

Official Details Crackdown on Assam Militants

*BK3011152690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 30 Nov 90*

[Text] In Assam, over 100 ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists have been rounded up by the Army and the police forces during the last three days. Briefing newsmen this afternoon at Guwahati, the adviser to the governor, Mr. P.P. Srivastav, said that the Army rounded up 48 extremists, while the police authorities apprehended 65 in different districts of Brahmaputra valley. Combing operations of their camps and hideouts throughout the state is in progress.

According to information available in Guwahati, two extremists and one army jawan [soldier] were killed in exchange of fire between the Army and the extremists. Extremist camps at Phulwari, Satnala, Lakhpatore, Nobil, Chandrapur and Lakwa have been cleared by the Army. The Army also recovered so far 174 weapons from the ULFA hideouts and training camps. Mr. Srivastav said about 700 people have come out from their villages around Lakhpatore area in Tinsukia District, where heavy exchange of fire between the extremists and the Army took place. They have been accommodated in temporary relief camps.

Official Says 226 Assam 'Extremists' Arrested

*BK0212161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 2 Dec 90*

[Text] In Assam, 226 activists of the unlawful ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] organization have been apprehended since the imposition of president's rule in the state. Giving this information to newsmen this evening at Guwahati, the adviser to the governor, Mr. P.P. Srivastav, said that the police have captured 29 ULFA activists while the army nabbed 11 since yesterday.

He described the overall situation throughout the state as peaceful and said the operations against the extremists by the army and the police will continue. Mr. Srivastav stated that precautions have been taken to protect the innocent people during the combing operations. He denied that tanks were used in combing operations at some places.

Army Pursues Assam Separatist Rebels

*BK0412034290 Hong Kong AFP in English
1208 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 3 (AFP)—Army troops backed by helicopters were pursuing separatist guerrillas in India's Assam state Monday, disrupting oil production and displacing hundreds of people, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Several civilians have been wounded in gunbattles between the troops and activists of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), which was outlawed by the federal government last week, the news agency reported.

PTI said the Army operations had affected pumping in three oil fields in the northeastern state where New Delhi sacked the provincial government November 27 for failing to combat growing separatist violence blamed on ULFA.

The government also suspended the Assam legislature, banned the ULFA—which was virtually running a parallel administration in the state—and gave security forces wide powers to fight the diehard separatist group.

Oil India Ltd. (Oil) Chairman C. Ratnam was quoted as saying that pumping activity in the oil fields of Dibrugarh district, a known ULFA stronghold, was disrupted for the sixth day Monday.

He said several oil employees had been trapped in the fields since the troops launched a state-wide crackdown on ULFA hours after New Delhi brought the border province under its direct control.

Assam, which borders Bhutan and Bangladesh, contributes some 10 per cent of India's oil production, which in 1989 totalled 31.07 million tonnes.

PTI said "several" civilians had been injured in fire-fights between the ULFA guerrillas and the Army "during the last few days" in Dibrugarh, where Army troops had launched sweeps to uncover rebel hideouts in many villages.

It said about 1,200 villagers had moved to relief camps following the crackdown, and that crops ready for harvest had been damaged in the pursuit for fleeing guerrillas.

Earlier, some 700 people had reportedly fled their homes.

PTI also quoted an Assam politician as accusing the army of committing "atrocities" on people and destroying fields, and demanded that the troops be immediately withdrawn.

Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) leader Nagen Saikia said in a statement that the troops were perpetrating "atrocities on innocent civilians, including women and children, in the name of flushing out operations of ULFA militants."

The AGP had been governing Assam since 1985 until its sacking last week. New Delhi blamed it for failing to curb the growth of ULFA, which has been blamed for more than 100 killings, mostly political rivals and the rich.

But AGP leaders have denied charges that it was linked to ULFA, which has been in existence for 11 years but shot into prominence in recent months with a string of daring murders and kidnappings for ransom.

The Army crackdown on the ULFA has led to at least three deaths, including that of a soldier, and to nearly 190 arrests.

ULFA, whose cadres are believed to have been trained in Burmese jungles, does not recognise the Indian constitution and maintains that Assam was never a part of India.

It calls India a colonial power and Assam a colony of New Delhi.

Operations Continue Against Assam 'Militants'

*BK0412062090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 4 Dec 90*

[Text] In Assam, security forces are continuing their operations against the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] militants. According to an official spokesman, 21 persons who were among the 115 held by the security forces have been released after interrogation. The spokesman said that in such situations some persons will have to be interrogated to establish whether they have any link with the militants.

Subversives Arrested in Kashmir; Arms Seized

*BK0312150990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] In Kashmir valley, 17 subversives have been arrested and a sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition recovered from them. According to an official release, six subversives were arrested at Baramulla, eight at Badgaon, two at Anantnag, and one in Srinagar. The seized arms include one rocket launcher, four rockets, two AK-47 rifles, 35 detonators, and some explosive material.

Kashmiri Youths on Training Camp Experience

*BK0212164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 2 Dec 90*

[Text] Four Kashmiri youths who made a successful escape from the militant training camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have spoken of the disillusion among the trainees. The four, who were arrested by the police in Kathua, have narrated to mediemen their traumatic experiences in the Pakistan-occupied area. Apart from the refusal to money payments after training, they were subjected to abuse and other humiliations by those in charge of the training. They said that many of the youths have made up their mind to leave the training camps.

Nagaland Chief Asks Ministers To Resign

*BK0312052890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] In Nagaland, the political crisis has further deepened. In the latest development, the chief minister, Mr. Bamuzo, has asked the public health engineering minister, Mr. T.A. Ngullie, to resign from the cabinet. The chief minister has accused him of mismanagement of government funds. Mr. Ngullie belongs to the Congress-I, which is a coalition partner in the ministry. As

reported earlier, the deputy chief minister, Mr. I.K. Sema, and the sports minister, Mr. Heeke A. Sema, had resigned from the ministry.

Meanwhile, the Nagaland PCCI [Pradesh Congress Committee-I] president, Mr. Sitihi Sema, and the Congress-I legislature party leader, Mr. S.C. Jamir, are camping in New Delhi to discuss with the high command the party's strategy in the wake of the present political situation in the state. The Nagaland People's Council [NPC] has 35 MLAs [Members of Legislative Assembly] and the Congress-I has 24 in the 60-members assembly. Mr. K.L. Chisi who belongs to the NPC is now an unattached member following his expulsion from the party.

Orissa State Chief Minister Injured by Opponents

BK0412032590 Hong Kong AFP in English
1844 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 3 (AFP)—The Orissa State chief minister was injured Monday when political opponents pelted him with stones, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Biju Patnaik, chief minister of Eastern Orissa State, was returning from addressing a rally in Bhawanipatna town when his car was attacked by alleged supporters of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party, PTI said.

Mr. Patnaik, a senior leader of former premier Vishwanath Pratap Singh's Janata Dal (People's Party), was hit in the face, PTI said.

Two unnamed Congress (I) activists were arrested, police were quoted as saying.

Mr. V.P. Singh, whose minority government was voted out November 7, escaped unhurt when activists of the revivalist Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP - Indian People's Party) stoned his entourage in the central city of Bhopal Sunday.

*** Responsibility Without Real Authority**

91P40060A Madras ANANDA VIKATAN in Tamil
18 Nov 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Political Game Lacking Straightforwardness"]

[Text] Chandra Shekar's dream has come true. Somehow with the help of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi he has become the Prime Minister today. Only time will show if Rajiv has indeed coronated him or is just holding him tightly by his tuft!

How long can Chandra Shekar's rule be expected to last relying on the support of the Congress and the MPs from the factious Janata Dal (S)? Can he really ever speak up against Rajiv Gandhi's wishes?

"Gosh...today Rajiv Gandhi is in a good mood...I am saved...," "Rajiv is not in Delhi today? Good, I can breathe easily...," "I have pleased Sonia Gandhi by

listening to her....No need to worry for a few days at least..." will be Chandra Shekar's thoughts filling his days spent "pleasing" Rajiv Gandhi!

At the same time the Congress is rather pleased with itself for having done what it considers a very smart thing! On the one hand it can simply make the Chandra Shekar government dance to its tunes! On the other, whatever blame comes can be passed on to Chandra Shekar! It can expect the public to feel indebted to it for any good that comes out of this government. For the rest, the ruling party can be criticized. Authority to rule is there but not the responsibility to answer to anyone! The Congress is trying to play such a fraudulent political game and win the sympathies of the people. It is another matter if it will be successful in this. But....

Poor Chandra Shekar!

Iran

Tehran Hosts Islamic Conference on Palestine

PFLP's Jibril, Fatah's Abu-Musa Arrive

LD0312173890 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] On the eve of the Islamic Conference on Palestine which is to be held in Iran, another group of outstanding personalities of Islamic movements and the anti-Zionist struggle, including Shaykh Ya'qub Jum'ah, Professor Hasan al-Tall, Lay Sarhan Shabilab, Turab Zamzami, Qalib Himmat, and Ahmad 'Ud arrived in Tehran last night. Our correspondent has interviewed two of the participants in the Islamic Conference on Palestine, to which I draw your attention [video shows Ahmad Jibril and Abu-Musa talking to a reporter]:

Mr. Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, referred in an interview to the United States' stand against the Palestine revolution as a crusade, and said: Our people have tolerated endless hardship and have fought against U.S. colonialism in various forms for the past 25 years; the intifadah itself is the base and the peak of the people's struggle, including men, women, children, and old people. Not only do our people tolerate this hardship, but all of the Muslims of the world will also shoulder this burden. It must be said that we have not received any support, but we shall continue the struggle under our Islamic unity.

He went on: At the present thousands of migrant Jews have been housed in occupied Palestine, and they wage war against the people of Palestine. But we know that this occupation is not the occupation that the people of Palestine are confronting. [sentence as heard]

Colonel Abu-Musa, secretary general of Fatah—The Uprising, referred during his interview to Imam Khomeini's words that Israel should be destroyed. He stressed: His eminence's words are the starting point and jihad

operation of the people, and are considered to be the firm foundations of the Palestine revolution. We receive inspiration from the revolutionary morale of the Iranian people and continue the struggle against the satans of the world; and for the liberation of Jerusalem. Therefore, we should strive until the end. I explicitly announce that the Palestine Conference in Iran can play a major role in promoting the idea among the world's Muslims.

Velayati Inaugurates Conference

*LD0412105790 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT
4 Dec 90*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—The first Islamic conference on Palestine was inaugurated here by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in the presence of a group of foreign and domestic scholars, personalities and combatant Muslims, Tuesday morning.

International solidarity with the Palestinian Islamic uprising 'intifadah', the influx of Jews to the occupied Palestine and its consequences will be the main topics of the three-day conference.

The conference will also study Islam and the Islamic revolution and the current developments in the region and their impact on the Palestinian issue.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by a number of officials including Majles deputies as well as some 140 'ulema and personalities from Islamic movements and leaders of liberation and progressive movements.

Chairman of the conference Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati who is head of the Islamic Propagation Organization and a member of the Guardians Council, welcoming the participants expressed the hope that the gathering will be a fresh step towards liberation of the occupied Qods [Jerusalem] and other Islamic lands.

Tehran Radio Reports Agenda

*NC0412092090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 4 Dec 90*

[Text] The occupied territories continue to be the scene of the Muslims' demonstrations against and confrontations with the Zionists. The latest reports indicate that during yesterday's clashes between Muslim Palestinians and the security forces of the regime occupying Jerusalem, one Muslim Palestinian youth was martyred by gunshots from Zionist soldiers in Bayt Fajr village in the occupied West Bank. No reports have been received on the uprising from the other occupied areas. This is at a time when the first Islamic Conference on Palestine, which will study ways to intensify the Muslims' uprising in occupied Palestine, is to open in Tehran. Our correspondent reports on this:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] In conjunction with the World Day of Solidarity with the Palestinians, the first Islamic Conference on Palestine is to open today at the Foreign Ministry's Center for

Political and International Research in the presence of a number of our country's political dignitaries, representatives of fighting Palestinian groups, and a number of domestic and foreign experts on the Palestinian problem.

The various aspects of the Palestinian people's Islamic uprising and Jewish immigration to the occupied territories and its outcome as well as the recent regional developments and the impact of these developments on the future course of the Palestinian nation's Islamic uprising are among the major topics that will be discussed during this conference.

The ceremony marking the World Day of Solidarity with the Palestinians is of special significance in view of the region's sensitive situation and the daily increasing number of plots by world arrogance against the oppressed Palestinian nation. By exploiting the special situation in the region, the regime occupying Jerusalem has hatched a new plot against the Muslim Palestinians in the form of the pitiless massacre of the innocent Muslim Palestinian nation. The Zionist regime is implementing the plan of Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine in a bid to suppress the just uprising of the Muslim Palestinians; the outcome of this plan will be the emergence of more difficulties and the trampling of the just rights of the Palestinian nation.

During the Islamic Conference on Palestine, the participants will present their views and will study the practical ways the Islamic world can support the Muslim Palestinians' uprising.

Political observers believe that at a time when Palestine's Islamic uprising is reaching a climax and when the zealous Palestinian youths—inspired by the principles of the Islamic Revolution—consider the only path toward salvation to be the continuation of the armed struggle against the Zionist regime, this conference will be able to bring together the expert views of the participants and of those interested in a Palestinian solution and to present a coordinated political solution for the revival of the rights of the oppressed Palestinian nation. [end recording]

Human Rights Used as 'Lever' Against Iran

*LD0312143990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1056 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Sixteen Western countries have reportedly submitted a draft 12-point resolution to be approved by the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, which has levelled numerous accusations and claims against Iran in the field of human rights violations. The issuing of Galindo Pohl's second report as well as the submission of the draft resolution to the Third Committee, whose approval will be ratified automatically by the General Assembly, encountered Iran's strong opposition and Iran's permanent representative in the United Nations,

in his meeting with the representatives of the countries which have prepared the draft resolution, conveyed his opposition to them.

Apparently, in continuation of these pressures, London-based Amnesty International also intends to publish a report on human rights conditions in Iran. It is worth mentioning that this organization has not issued a report in connection with Iran since 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]. The past performance and the present union between Amnesty International and the UN Human Rights Committee reveals a considerable and calculated political pressure, whose roots must be looked for outside the confined framework of human rights.

The UN special envoy visited Iran twice in one year and each time submitted his detailed report to the UN Human Rights Committee. In the first report, he categorically refutes most of the main accusations currently levelled at the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in the second report, beside mentioning the cooperation of the Iranian authorities and affirming former issues, he refers to some points in the Islamic penal laws, which, because of his lack of mastery of Islamic jurisprudence, is naturally unreliable.

Anyhow, although the Islamic Republic of Iran is suspicious of the veiled intentions of these investigations and believes that the human rights situation in the occupied territories and many of the countries which are being governed by military dictatorships and coup d'etat regimes should be considered before anything else, but at the same time it has not shirked from practical cooperation with the UN committee.

What exacerbated this suspicion is the method and the manner of the political-propagandist approach to the human rights issue. These attitudes are, in reality, a lever to press for changing the stances of a country which acts against the wishes of the arrogant powers, either in the area or internationally. In this connection, even some of the political affiliates of the Western countries, which are the instigators of the human rights resolution against Iran, state categorically that this act is, in reality, a reaction to Iran's stance on the Persian Gulf crisis.

In the wake of the invasion of Kuwait by the Iraqi forces, once again the international community became aware of the geopolitical importance of Iran. In addition to the fact that Iran with a population of 50 million is the largest country in the Persian Gulf region, it also enjoys the privilege of possessing the longest and the most extensive sea borders of the region.

Since the success rate of any action or reaction in the region without taking Iran's position into consideration is low and difficult to achieve, the major powers are taking great precautions in terms of our country's political stands.

Regarding the Persian Gulf crisis, the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns and deems as doomed the Iraqi

invasion of Kuwait and the pursuit of aggression [tajavus-talabi] in the region. It opposes the presence of alien forces—specifically the U.S. and European forces—and considers the unprecedented buildup of those country's military forces in the Persian Gulf region a serious threat to the interests of the Muslims of the region. Thus, the Islamic republic of Iran, has not only refused to allow our country's soil to be used for warmongering and hegemonistic purposes—regarding Washington's motives with scepticism—but it has also refrained from cooperating with the mainly Western forces in Saudi Arabian territory. In view of this, while the major powers are displeased with the adoption of such stances by the Islamic Republic of Iran, they are once again in a rare display of solidarity trying to exert pressure on Iran by resorting to the human rights weapon, as a means of altering Iran's stances. For this reason, the recent wave of pressures by arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran—which is being enforced in our country under the pretext of the defense of human rights—should be assessed in this context. Therefore, in the next few days one can expect an increase in the bulk of such pressures, in the form of extensive and concentrated propaganda.

Commentary Assails Amnesty International Report

LD0312222790 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT
3 Dec 90

[By Sara Ahmadi]

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3 (IRNA)—Shortly after the U.N. human rights envoy Reynaldo Galindo Pohl in his second report accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of human rights abuses, the Amnesty International raised a similar claim criticizing Tehran for what it called violation of human rights.

The compiling of such reports especially when the Islamic Republic has criticized the U.S. military build-up in the Persian Gulf requires analysis from various aspects.

Investigating the human rights status from an outlook known as fundamental Christianity, the Amnesty International tries to spread such racist outlooks and viewpoints to various parts of the world.

Therefore, if the legal and judicial system of a country does not endorse the outlooks of the Amnesty International, that country will be blamed by the organization. The wider the disagreement is the more accusations will be levelled against that country.

As a matter of fact, the judicial system of the Islamic Republic which is based on Islamic teachings has contradictions with the way of thinking of the Amnesty International leaders.

This is why the organization considers it appropriate to subject the beliefs of the Iranian nation to the most hostile and harshest accusations under the pretext of defending the human rights simply because those beliefs do not match with its views.

The Amnesty International has devoted a major part of its report to rejecting the judicial procedure practiced in the Islamic Republic.

Such a hostile attitude stems from the racial tendencies inherent in the West's ruling system despite its slogans of democracy. Due to the West's failure to tolerate the beliefs of followers of other schools of thought it has launched a "merciless war with modern methods against those who do not think in the same manner that they do."

This can explain the Amnesty International's support for Salman Rushdie, the apostate British author of "The Satanic Verses" in defiance of millions of Muslims and its failure to support the innocent people of Palestine.

The Palestinian people have, for a long time, been subjected to the most barbaric acts of repression by the criminal Zionist regime and every day scores of Palestinian children, women and men are gunned down by Zionist troops.

But the so-called human rights organizations in the West, which upon finding an excuse in those countries that are against bowing to expansionist powers make the loudest hue and cry, have simply passed by these savage bloodshed and crimes perpetrated by the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime.

"What action has the Amnesty International taken to expose the depth of the Zionists' crimes and prevent the Zionist regime from massacring Palestinian Muslims?"

In parts of its report, the Amnesty International has underscored the need to abolish the death sentence, rejecting the enforcement of the capital punishment under any circumstances and for any criminal action.

According to such a demand, the organization has condemned the punishment of terrorists, drug traffickers, professional criminals and those involved in spreading corruption and prostitution in Iran.

To the Amnesty International the spread of corruption and prostitution as well as other offenses condemned by the Islamic Republic, are not evil. The notorious backgrounds of the organization's presidents testify to this fact.

Though the Amnesty International's instructions to the people of the world concerning what they should do or what they should not do is open to question, the expression of such statements proves the truth of this claim that the organization approves of whatever actions regarded as legitimate in the West and expects others to think and do in a manner agreeable with the Western culture.

This is while the abolition of death sentence, because of the serious problems it may create for the social security, has not been fully enforced in many Western countries especially the U.S., the main patron of the Amnesty International [AI].

The AI's claims of human rights abuses in Iran is surprisingly similar to those raised by the terrorist Mojahedin e-Khalq Organization (MKO).

The AI report refers to accusations often published in MKO leaflets as reliable information despite the fact that the MKO claims have been time and again dismissed as false by the envoys of some international circles who have visited Iran.

After all, it is not clear why the AI claiming to base its reports on precise data and figures has this time referred to MKO-raised allegations of torture and execution of political prisoners under cover of drug traffickers in Iran as valid documents.

The AI's explicit and implicit support for Iranian outlawed armed grouplets including the MKO is quite evident in its report. For this reason, the AI on page four of its report, has referred to the encounter of Iranian disciplinary forces with the MKO who are directly involved in the killings of hundreds of civilians including children, as a ruthless suppression.

Elsewhere in the report, the AI, while ignoring the violent actions and crimes of the MKO and other outlawed grouplets resulting in the deaths of a large number of people, including students and businessmen, has criticized Iran's confrontation with criminals.

The AI report has explicitly voiced opposition to the execution of such criminals without making a mention of the type of offense they had committed.

The Amnesty International which claims in its charter that it condemns the use of violence by any person including opposition groups should answer what reaction it has shown to the crimes terrorist ringleaders have confessed to perpetrate.

The AI claims that it is unconditionally opposed to any ruthless, inhuman and contemptuous behavior. But in its recent report it does not offer any reasons for its demand to abolish the death penalty against drug dealers who victimize numerous human beings and lead many families to destruction.

Why does the AI continue to openly oppose the punishment of drug traffickers who despite repeated warnings by the Islamic Republic's judicial officials over the past years, continue their inhuman acts?

And the last but not the least, the publication of the Amnesty International report simultaneously with the report published by the special U.N. envoy as well as the great interest shown by the Western mass media in the issue, indicates that a new propaganda assault against Islamic Iran is in the making.

The arrogant world's propaganda war is being launched after Washington's disappointment with Iran as regards endorsing its aggressive policies in the Persian Gulf crisis. The U.S. was hopeful that in view of the eight year old Iraqi war against the Islamic Republic, it would succeed in involving Iran in the crisis as one of its allies, or at least be sure that Tehran would not condemn its military presence in the Persian Gulf.

But the principled stances declared by the Islamic Republic as a country playing a key and significant role in many of the region's politico-military equations, prompted Washington's anger so that this wrath and unhappiness has been showing face in various forms in the recent months.

The simultaneous publication of the same scenario regarding human rights violations in the Islamic Republic by two apparently different sources and their emphasis on groundless but identical issues, proves that the world's ruling oppressive system is still busy plotting against the Islamic revolution, something which requires an appropriate response from the Iranian side. Let's [word indistinct] a revealing remark by the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, imam Khomeyni, which clearly portrays the principled and everlasting hostility of the Islamic Republic with the oppressors:

"An important point which we should all pay attention to and rely on as a policy towards the foreigners is to see how long and how far our enemies and the world-devourers would tolerate us and to what extent would they accept our independence and freedom. Surely they would recognize no boundary than our retreat from all our identities as well as divine and spiritual values."

Amnesty Seeks End to Executions

LD0412110890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The Amnesty International organization has published a report asking that the punishment by execution of narcotics smugglers, perpetrators of corruption and prostitution, and terrorist elements in Iran be forbidden.

The Amnesty organization, in its published report, has claimed that human rights has been violated in Iran and has criticized the Islamic Republic of Iran for enforcing Islamic punishment against these kinds of persons. Several officials of European countries disclosed before the publication of this report that the publication of this report is an effort to bring pressure to bear on Iran. Following the crisis in the Persian Gulf and the Islamic Republic of Iran's condemnation of the extensive Western military presence in the region, various kinds of political pressures have begun to be exerted by the West and notably by the United States against Iran.

Pakistan

Demonstrators Burn Bush Effigy, Protest Policy

BK0312172290 Hong Kong AFP in English
1654 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 3 (AFP)—Demonstrators protesting the U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia burned President George Bush in effigy in the Pakistani capital Monday, witnesses said.

The demonstrators, organized by two youth organizations allied to the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former Premier Benazir Bhutto, shouted support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Speakers at the rally said the United States had sent its forces to "capture" Moslem oil resources.

The PPP leader has not so far publicly criticized the U.S. role in the Gulf since her ouster from power in August following which Pakistan decided to contribute troops to the multinational forces in the Kingdom.

The Quami Mohaz Azadi (QMA), a left-wing organization, also participated in the protest.

U.S. Pressure on Nuclear Program Rejected

BK0312162390 Hong Kong AFP in English
1607 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 3 (AFP)—Pakistan will not forsake its nuclear development programme under pressure from the United States, the chairman of the country's Atomic Energy Commission, Munir Ahmed Khan, said Monday.

"The conditions imposed by a superpower on Pakistan's nuclear programme are not acceptable," Mr. Khan was quoted by the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN as saying.

"We cannot give up our nuclear programme for peaceful purposes," he said in a speech at an international seminar on defence science at Wah, near the capital.

Referring to the suspension of U.S. military and economic assistance to Pakistan over the nuclear issue, he said even if the aid were restored "we must stand on our own feet."

The United States, suspecting that Pakistan may be developing nuclear weapons, has withheld about 600 million dollars in military and economic assistance.

Pakistan insists that its nuclear programme is geared entirely to peaceful purposes. The two governments are due to open talks this week on the issue.

Editorial Examines Iraq, UN Resolution

*BK6312104790 Lahore THE NATION in English
3 Dec 90 p 6*

[Editorial: "Ray of Hope for Peace"]

[Text] The UN Security Council's deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is an ultimatum Saddam Husayn cannot ignore unless he has gone crackers. Having secured the world body's endorsement for use of force, the Americans can no longer be accused by him of planning a 'war of aggression.' The massive vote in the UN for what could be called a virtual declaration of war against Iraq, has robbed Saddam Husayn of whatever diplomatic leverage he had by projecting himself as a victim of "US-Israel collusion" to dominate the region. Washington has scored another point by offering to hold talks with Iraq. Extending invitation to the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Tariq 'Aziz to visit Washington and offering to reciprocate by sending the US Secretary of State, James Baker to Baghdad, President Bush said, he was "going the extra mile for peace".

Notwithstanding the real motive for Washington's peace overture, the Americans have played the "negotiations card" at the right moment. Whether it is a genuine effort to avoid war or a gambit to placate critics at home who have been saying that economic sanctions have not been given sufficient time to show results and that it is premature to go to war, it has given Washington a definite edge in the on-going battle of wits. Had Saddam Husayn not accepted the offer he would have closed the chapter of a negotiated settlement, besides finding himself more isolated in the world than ever before. Nevertheless, a new ray of hope for peace in the Gulf has arisen and the onus of saving the region from the catashophe of war looming large, is on Saddam Husayn who must see the writing on the wall before it is too late for honest brokers to find a mutually acceptable face-saving formula. Saddam Husayn's plea for comprehensive talks on all sources of discord in the Middle East cannot be dismissed as irrelevant and sooner or later the Americans and will have to review their Israel policy. But Iraq must vacate its aggression against Kuwait before it can legitimately assume the role of a spokesman of the Palestinian rights.

Mission Sends Note on Diplomatic Harassment

*BK0112160690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Text] The Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi has lodged a strong protest with India over the threats, intimidation, and continuous harassment of the senior mission officers. The High Commission has sent a protest note to the Indian External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today, saying that the officers of the mission have not only been knowingly threatened and intimidated which resulted in the disruption of the discharge of their duties, but they and their families have been threatened with physical harm as well. The High Commssion has sent this second protest note within the past 48 hours.

The High Commissioner, Abdul Sattar, apprised the Indian External Affairs Ministry last night also of the incidents of harassment. In his latest protest note, the Pakistani High Commissioner has again empasized that such incidents are totally against the diplomatic norms. The High Commission has expressed the hope that the Indian Government will take immediate and effective steps under Vienna Commission and give assurance that the series of harrassment of senior officials will be stopped and such incidents will not be repeated.

Sri Lankan Army Commander Meets President

*BK0212164490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 2 Dec 90*

[Text] The spiritual leader of the Bohra community, Syedena Dr. Mohammad Burhanuddin, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. They discussed problems concerning the Muslim ummah [community], particularly the protection of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim states. The leader of the Bohra community praised Pakistan's role and efforts to promote unity among the Muslim ummah. He said a strong Pakistan is vital not only for protection of Islamic countries, but also Muslim minorities in different countries.

The visiting commander of the Sri Lankan Army, Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe, also paid a courtesy call on the president. He discussed with the president matters of mutual interest.

Kabul Regime Territorial Violations Protested

*BK0312100290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the Kabul regime for the violation of its territory by the Kabul regime troops on 20 and 28 November. The Kabul regime troops fired two Scud missiles on 28 November that landed in the Kurram agency area of Tarimangal, killing 11 persons, including three Afghan refugees, and seriously injuring 15. Four civilians vehicles were also totally damaged. The Kabul regime troops also fired a missile on 20 November that landed in the Khyber agency area (Afzal Khan), damaging three houses.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad yesterday and was asked to convey to his government that Pakistan would take all the necessary steps to protect the life and property of its citizens.

Ishaq Khan Honors Bangladeshi Air Chief

*BK0112121690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Text] The president has conferred the award of Hilal-i-Imtiaz military on Chief of Air Staff of Bangladesh Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmed at a special ceremony in Islamabad today. The award was conferred in recognition of his personal efforts for the improvement of relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh and the air forces of the two countries.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah and the ambassador of Bangladesh to Pakistan, Mr. Shafi Sami.

Ishaq Khan Reaffirms Support To Kashmiris

*BK0112115890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said Pakistan will continue its political and moral support to the right of self determination of the Kashmiri people. He gave this assurance to a 20-member delegation of Tehrik-i-Amal party of Azad Jammu and Kashmir led by its president, Retired Major General Mohammad Hayat Khan, which called on him in Islamabad today. The president said that the government of Pakistan will utilize all diplomatic channels to mobilize international public opinion in support of the inalienable rights of the people of Kashmir as well as for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Atomic Commission Chairman Urges Self-Reliance

*BK0412111090 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 4 Dec 90 p 10*

[Text] Wah Cantt, Dec 3—It should be our common goal to make efforts to minimise the manufacturing of armaments so that South Asia could be considered really as nuclear free zone.

This was stated by Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission speaking as chief guest of second session of 10th International Seminar on Defence Science & Technology at Wah Cantt. He said due to environment and geographical situation of Pakistan, we need scientific strength and military technology for credible defence. "For this purpose we will have to depend upon self-reliance because we cannot afford to buy all the arms and ammunition from foreign countries. He added that Pakistan has capable manpower and skill in order to be self-sufficient in the field of armament which is essential for the protection of borders.

Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan mentioned that in the recent era the Muslim countries are spending heavy amounts on the procurement of armament from foreign countries because they do not have defence technology and expertise. Foreign countries show interest only in the transfer of obsolete system of technology which has become useless for themselves. He appreciated the efforts and achievements in engineering which is doing well in Pakistan. Chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission maintained that the key of future is Research and Development.

He stressed the need to develop the R & D facilities in Pakistan so that we could be able to enter the next century as the new defence is developing in the world. He said future defence system relies upon laser, guided-system and space instead of ground based system.

Talking about the suspension of U.S. aid to Pakistan he said this incident will create the feeling of dependence in us; if it is restored even then we must stand on our own feet. It is right time to develop our Defence Science & Technology system. He said that the conditions imposed

by super powers on Pakistan's nuclear programme are not acceptable to us and we cannot give up our right of nuclear programme for peaceful purposes.

Earlier Lt-Gen Sabeeh Qamaruz-Zaman, Chairman of the Pakistan Ordnance Factories [POF] Board while delivering his key note address described the main objects of this seminar. He said that this year POF will supply to the army 14 new ammunitions which were till now being imported from abroad. He mentioned that these developments were made despite enhanced production targets and most important, without any increase in manpower of plant and machinery. He thanked Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, Chief of the Army Staff for support extended in order to achieve the goals.

He hoped that 1991 will probably be a very important year for the defence industry the world over.

POFs Chief suggested that transfer of technology will be more difficult to obtain and will become prohibitively expensive. Thus, the developing countries will have to pay more and more for their lack of self-reliance. In the end he thanked the foreign delegates for participating in the seminar.

Cabinet Meets; Finance Minister Briefs Press

*BK0412083090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] The federal cabinet has approved an amendment on the Pakistan Penal Code providing for death penalty besides imprisonment and fine for kidnapping for ransom. An ordinance to this effect would be promulgated this week. The approval was given at the cabinet meeting in Islamabad today. It was presided over by the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif.

Briefing newsmen later, the federal finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, said the cabinet also approved the establishment of banks in the private sector and amendment by the Council of Islamic Ideology on the Pakistan Penal Code relating to qisas and diyat [blood money and retribution]. In this connection, elaborate concept of Aqila [in which the relations from the father's side pay the blood money] would be introduced and amendment in the section relating to offenses of qatl-i-khata [involuntary manslaughter] and qatl-i-khata by rash and negligent driving and injuries caused due to mistakes would be made bailable.

The cabinet also approved the Hajj policy which is being announced tomorrow. It decided to withdraw amendments on zakat and usher [Islamic tithe] ordinance made by the previous government except two. These are extension of court of zakat to northern areas and collection of usher by provincial revenue departments.

The finance minister made it clear that no large-scale dismissal of employees would be carried out. Only those recruited by the previous regime against the rules and regulations would be affected.

As a gesture of goodwill the cabinet decided to send 3,000 tons of rice to the Soviet Union keeping in view food shortages in that country. It approved a draft treaty between Pakistan and the United States to encourage reciprocal investments.

Execution for Kidnapping Approved

*BK0312143990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 3 Dec 90*

[Text] The federal cabinet today gave approval to an amendment in the Pakistan Penal Code providing for capital punishment for kidnapping for ransom. An ordinance to this effect will be promulgated this week. The cabinet meeting presided over by the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad also approved a draft ordinance amending Bank Nationalization Act of 1974 to enable the private sector to open banks. The cabinet also approved an amendment in the Zakat and Usher [Islamic tithe] Ordinance.

Officials Mull Reported Najibullah Resignation

*BK0112152890 Lahore THE NATION in English
1 Dec 90 pp 1, 10*

[By Ahmed Rashid]

[Text] Islamabad—President Najibullah is ready to step down from office in favour of a transitional government in Kabul headed by ex-Afghan King Zahir Shah.

A new round of intense and highly secret international diplomacy has begun to end the 12-year old Afghan war as the Soviet Union, faced by mounting food shortages is no longer able to keep the Kabul regime supplied with food and fuel. Pakistan faces crucial decisions in the next few weeks which could play a decisive role in ending the Afghan conflict.

The Pakistan government has been informed by close associates of Zahir Shah that during their talks with President Najibullah in Geneva last week, he offered to step down from the presidency if the former King, now in exile in Rome, was to take his place and form a transitional government. Senior Pakistani officials and reliable Afghan sources in Pakistan and Europe, who spoke in telephone interviews, said that in the talks with Mujahidin leader Pir Ahmad Gaylani and former Afghan Prime Minister Mohammad Yusuf, President Najibullah agreed to step down if a transitional government headed by Zahir Shah could also be guaranteed by the superpowers, Iran, Pakistan and the United Nations.

Afghan sources said that during the Geneva talks Najibullah first insisted that he would like to remain as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. This was rejected. He then asked to remain in Afghanistan as head of his Watan Party, but this was also reportedly rejected by Zahir Shah's representatives. Najibullah finally agreed to leave the country.

However, he is believed to have stipulated three conditions—that he and his close associates would get safe passage out of Afghanistan, that the Afghan army would be preserved and not persecuted and that there would be no power vacuum in Kabul during the transition.

For some months now it has been clear that Najibullah and the Soviets would certainly prefer handing over power to the ex-King and the moderate Mujahidin rather than those Mujahidin, who have stepped up fighting against the Kabul regime and plan to launch a large-scale offensive against Kabul next spring.

Pakistani officials said that they had still not received direct confirmation from the King about the offer, but admitted that "the Zahir Shah's option has become a serious possibility for the first time." On Thursday the Hizb-e Islami leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar had rejected any role for Zahir Shah in a peace plan.

The departure of Najibullah under any conditions, would be welcomed by the U.S., the West and the Muslim world and it would also vindicate Pakistan's and the Mujahidin demands that Najibullah resign before any permanent peace plan is set in motion. Such a dramatic move would in fact embarrass the Americans, who had in their talks with the Soviets conceded a role for Najibullah in the transition period.

Pakistan's acceptance of this offer is considered crucial by the Zahir Shah camp, because of its influence over the Mujahidin in the field.

A meeting of the Afghan Cell is expected to be held next week to debate these new developments. However, the uncertainty remains amongst top Pakistani officials that this could be just another ploy by Najibullah to keep the Mujahidin divided. Hectic diplomatic efforts are going ahead to get confirmation about the offer from all those Afghans involved in the Geneva talks.

For months there have been numerous plans for a transitional government in Kabul being discussed by the superpowers, the Mujahidin, Zahir Shah's group and the UN. However, after gaining international support, Zahir Shah replaced Najibullah in Kabul, calls a conference of prominent Afghans which would then set up a transitional government.

This government would then either hold elections or call a Loya Jirga [Grand Assembly], which would choose a new permanent government. Zahir Shah would then step down from office. The UN would be the key in implementing these transitional arrangements.

A new round of intense international diplomatic activity is beginning, which is shrouded in secrecy because no country or party wants to appear to be imposing a solution on the Afghans nor do they wish to be blamed for any failure. Diplomats from all countries involved in the Afghan problem are denying their involvement.

Where this initiative has come from also remains shrouded in mystery. Although it appears that the Swiss

government is helping this initiative, the UN, the U.S., the Soviets, Iran and Pakistan all strongly profess their innocence and their lack of information as to where this initiative originated from.

Western diplomats recently in Moscow and Kabul say that the imminent collapse of the Soviet economy will soon force the Soviet leadership to drop its 250 million dollars a month in arms, food and fuel aid to the Kabul regime. In one of the biggest ironies of the post Cold War scenario Moscow is now receiving food aid from Germany—food that was kept in bunkers in Berlin after the Russians tried to starve the Germans in 1949 and a massive Western airlift saved the city.

While European countries now sending food aid to Moscow have stipulated that this aid cannot be sent onto Kabul, Boris Yeltsin the President of the Russian Republic has called for an end to the Russian Republic's economic aid to Kabul and a settlement in Afghanistan without Najibullah. This virtual revolt by the Russians against a 12 year policy of Soviet support for Kabul is crippling President Gorbachev's options about what to do on Afghanistan. "The economic crisis for Gorbachev has tilted the balance against him being able to sustain Najibullah much longer," said a diplomat.

In Kabul itself there are acute food and fuel shortages and prices have skyrocketed, with famine in the Afghan countryside now a distinct possibility. There are also severe dissensions within the army with Najibullah reshuffling top generals from posting to posting to avoid a possible coup. The Najibullah regime is now surviving by a fine thread. He would clearly prefer a surrender to the moderate Afghan opposition as a better guarantee for his party means survival, than face an all out offensive by the Mujahidin without the prospect of Soviet aid.

Pakistan now faces critical choices if the Najibullah offer to resign is serious. With the recent rapprochement between Hikmatyar and Masud, there is strong support within the establishment for a continued Mujahidin offensive that would eventually place a Mujahidin government in Kabul without Zahir Shah. However, despite the new military unity amongst them, there is still no serious Mujahidin political entity that could claim overall Afghan and international support. Although Mujahidin pressure will have to be maintained until Najibullah has flown out of Kabul, Pakistan will have to seriously reconsider its long standing antipathy to Zahir Shah if his presence in Kabul can force Najibullah to resign and end more bloodshed. The Mujahidin could then be allowed to make their own decisions as to which kind of government they wanted.

Sri Lanka

Government Lifts Curfew in Two Areas

BK3011133290 Hong Kong AFP in English
1316 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Colombo, Nov 30 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Friday lifted an indefinite curfew imposed in two northern districts but continued to enforce the curfew in three other strife-torn areas.

An official communique said the curfew was removed from the Vavuniya and Mannar district but remained in force in the northern Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.

The five districts were brought under a curfew 10 days ago in a bid to restrict the movement of Tamil rebels, who control large parts of the island's north, during army operations there.

Meanwhile, officials said government troops, stung by last week's loss of the Mankulam army camp in Mullaitivu district, have launched a massive search operation in the nearby jungles for Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas who were responsible for the attack on the military garrison.

Officials also said troops backed by air force helicopters continued their search for soldiers who may have survived the LTTE assault on Mankulam.

Colombo initially said more than 100 army soldiers were feared dead in the massive attack launched by the tigers who claimed 150 army dead in the Mankulam battle.

Later Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said the army casualty toll may be less than first feared but put the rebel toll at 196 LTTE dead.

The Defence Ministry communique said 120 of 273 Mankulam-based troops who withdrew into the nearby jungles after the attack, have arrived at a border post in Vavuniya 50 kilometers (about 30 miles) to the south.

The first batch of survivors reached the army outpost in Vavuniya on Tuesday, three days after the Tigers overran the strategic camp.

Officials said there were 299 officers and soldiers in the camp at the time of the attack.

The Tigers renewed their attacks on military targets on June 11 to relaunch their campaign for an independent homeland in Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated northeast.

Security Forces Bomb LTTE Convoy, Kill 15

BK3011132490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 15 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants have been killed, when security forces bombed a convoy of six trucks at Ponneria

about 40 kms from Jaffna city. According to a military communique, three trucks exploded in the bombing.

LTTE Kills Seven Special Task Force Policemen

*BK0312101690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0721 GMT 3 Dec 90*

["Oana/pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 3 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Seven members of the Special Task Force (STF) of the police were killed this morning, when they were ambushed by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists when driving along a flooded stretch of road in eastern Sri Lanka, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

They said the victims of the LTTE ambush were a sub-inspector, sergeant, four constables, and the driver of the vehicle.

They were driving through a stretch on the Panama-Arugam Bay road in the Ampara District. This was under water due to heavy rains when the tragedy occurred, at 0700 [0130 GMT] today.

Meanwhile, two LTTE terrorists disguised as fishermen shot dead two Muslim fishermen in the lagoon at Ambalankamam in Batticaloa.

The security forces destroyed a number of LTTE bunkers at Vasavilan in Jaffna yesterday.

A T-84 rifle being concealed in a box containing TV antennas was found in a lorry traveling from Colombo to the eastern town of Kathankudy.

Security forces also seized 4,000 rounds of ammunition from terrorists in the eastern town of Pudukkudiyiruppu, official sources said.

190 Mankulam Soldiers Report to Vavuniya Camp

*BK0412133690 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 4 Dec 90*

[Text] A total of 190 soldiers and officers have now reported to the army base camp at Vavuniya from

Mankulam. The security forces are still conducting operations in pursuit of the terrorists as well as to provide assistance to the soldiers who moved out of the Mankulam army camp. They are supported by Air Force helicopters.

PRC Premier Li Peng To Visit 17-19 December

*BK0112120090 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 1 Dec 90*

[Text] The prime minister of the People's Republic of China, Li Peng, will pay an official visit to Sri Lanka this month. He will be visiting the island from the 17th to the 19th at the invitation of the prime minister of Sri Lanka, D.B. Wijetunga. The delegation of the Chinese prime minister will comprise 40 members. It will include the minister of foreign affairs, Qian Qichen, and the chairman of the State Commission for Reconstructing of Economy, (Chen Tinghua).

Heroin 'Smuggler' Arrested Returning From India

*BK0412132290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0959 GMT 4 Dec 90*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—A Sri Lankan returning to the country on board a flight from Madras was yesterday caught by the customs at the Colombo international airport allegedly smuggling 2.5 kilograms of heroin worth Rs. [Rupees] 1 million, the police Narcotics Bureau told LANKAPUVATH.

They gave the suspect's name as V. Selvanayagam. He was later handed over to the Narcotics Bureau. The heroin was concealed in a basket of food.

A person outside the airport and the driver of the vehicle awaiting the arrival of the smuggler were also arrested. The vehicle, a van, was also taken into custody.

The detection was made by deputy director of customs S.P.S. Weerasekera.

Police are investigating whether the suspects, who are in the custody of the Narcotics Bureau were involved in narco terrorism.